



## France: Clarification needed on Iraq

PARIS (R) — France's conservative government said Sunday it understood the reasons for the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, but the international community's policy towards Iraq needed clarifying. "The question which arises is to know what the international community is seeking in its relations with Iraq, and it is on that point that perhaps a clarification is needed," Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told RTL radio. "Is it a question of destabilising Iraq and taking it apart? Or is it a question of bending its policies so that it respects international resolutions? France has given itself the second objective," Mr. Juppe said. He said Paris believed that "in this rather complicated region, the existence of an Iraqi state is an element of stability in the region... objectives have to be clarified." Mr. Juppe said he understood the reaction of the Americans. "We understand this reaction perfectly and share any action against terrorism," he said. But, referring to resolutions on Iraq following the 1991 Gulf war, he added: "Our action in Iraq is in a different context. We are in the context of the application of U.N. resolutions."

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# Iraq: 8 killed in U.S. missile strike

## Clinton says attack on intelligence building retaliation for Bush plot

Combined agency dispatches

RAO SAID Sunday a U.S. missile strike on Baghdad killed eight civilians, including a baby and a friend of President Saddam Hussein, and highlighted the barbaric nature of the U.S. hegemony in the world.

The official Iraqi News Agency listed 12 people wounded in the pre-dawn attack against the Iraqi intelligence headquarters. It said relief teams were searching for more victims believed buried in the debris of collapsed buildings.

The Venezuelan embassy in the fashionable Al Mansour district was also hit, although no casualties were reported there, the agency said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council, complaining about the "unjustified, one-sided aggression."

The letter, whose text was released by the agency, said: "The international community's silence towards American attacks on Iraq and other Third World nations has encouraged the U.S. to live to control the world through armed aggression, organised state terrorism and extortion."

President Bill Clinton said he ordered the strike in retaliation for a "loathsome and cowardly" assassination plot against former President George Bush.

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell said 23 Scud missiles were launched from two U.S. navy ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf. At least three missed the intelligence headquarters a few hundred metres.

Mr. Clinton said there was "compelling evidence" that Iraqi intelligence plotted to kill Mr.



Friends console an Iraqi man who lost two of his children in Saturday's U.S. missile attack on Baghdad (AFP photo)

Bush during an April visit to Kuwait.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council refuted the claim. It said in a statement the alleged assassination plot was "fabricated" by Kuwait in coordination with Washington in an effort to justify military action against Iraq.

Robert Moore, Independent Television News correspondent in Baghdad, told the BBC many floors of the Iraqi intelligence headquarters collapsed in the attack. He said he also saw rescuers drag the body of an elderly Iraqi out of rubble in a residential area.

The Iraqi media made no mention of damage or casualties at the intelligence building.

Iraqi officials said eight people were killed and at least a dozen others wounded. Adel Ibrahim, a spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Jordan, said Leila Attar, an Iraqi artist and the director of the Saddam Centre for Arts, her husband and their housemaid died when a missile hit their house. The couple's daughter and son were among at least a dozen other people wounded, Iraqi News Agency said.

Associated Press photographer Jassim Mohammad said he awoke to the zoom of missiles passing overhead.

"It was scary," Mr. Mohammad said. "We did not know what was going on, but everybody was rushing to take shelter."

Kathem Shahib, a merchant whose house is close to Al Mansour district, said he saw at least

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## Iraq says it downed missile

IRAQ SAID Sunday its air defences shot down a U.S. cruise missile during the attack on its intelligence headquarters. Television showed Iraqi experts defusing the rocket. "Our anti-aircraft defences in Habaniya shot down one U.S. cruise missile fired by the American navy," state television said in its main news bulletin. Habaniya is 60 kilometres west of Baghdad.

## Allies back action, but Arabs decry it

Combined agency dispatches

WORLD REACTION to the U.S. raid on Iraq was mixed Sunday with America's allies saying the pre-dawn cruise missile strike on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad was justified.

But the Arab League and several countries, including Malaysia, Iran and Sudan, condemned the attack as an act of terrorism while the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called on all Arabs to "join together to rebuff the aggressors."

In a communique released in Cairo, the Arab League said it "strongly deplored" the attack and warned against the risks of using military means without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"Resorting to force to resolve international problems without a (prior) U.N. Security Council decision... implies risks which run against the establishment of a new world order based on respect for international law," the league said.

The league also said the attack "provoked painful psychological effects among the peoples who are victims of such acts."

The league urged the world to also focus attention on "Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as on crimes committed by the Serbs against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

It called for an end to "double

standards."

The Security Council in New York was to hold an emergency meeting Sunday at the request of the United States which wants to explain the raid on Iraq.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Sunday that the "U.S. actions are justified because they flow from the state's individual and collective right to self-defence."

Britain, Israel, Germany, Austria and Australia also voiced support for the U.S. move with British Prime Minister John Major saying "the USA were entirely right and I fully support their action of self-defence."

Mr. Major, like several other U.S. allies, had been informed of the attack before it was launched. British Labour Party leader John Smith, however, said he has some "grave doubts" as to the legality of the attack.

"We believe that where necessary, any action against Iraq should be governed strictly by decision of the United Nations," he said.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, asked by BBC radio if Britain would support follow-up action if Washington thought it necessary, said: "I don't think they will decide it's necessary."

He added: "I don't know how the Iraqis themselves will react. They'd be very foolish if they started a tit-for-tat."

Speaking during a visit to Northern Ireland, Mr. Major

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## Tests show King in excellent health

AMMAN (J.T.) — Doctors testing His Majesty King Hussein at a U.S. hospital have found no sign that cancer has returned, a statement from the Royal Palace said.

The Monarch, 57, underwent routine checkups Friday and Saturday at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where surgeons last year removed a kidney after finding cancerous cells.

"His Majesty King Hussein has successfully concluded his second round of post-operative routine medical tests at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota."

The King's private physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said that the tests, which were conducted in Rochester by a team of Mayo Clinic doctors and allied health staff led by Dr. David Barrett on June 25 and 26, showed no trace of the cancer for which the King was operated on last August. Test results also concluded that King Hussein's overall health is in excellent condition.

"King Hussein plans to continue to undergo routine checkups of the urinary tract every six months, the normal course of follow-up care for patients who are treated for this type of urinary tract problem. The next round of tests will be conducted at the end of the year, Dr. Farraj added."

"King Hussein will be departing Rochester on Sunday."

The full results of the tests have shown that His Majesty is enjoying excellent health and none of the tests showed any sign of cancer, which His Majesty had suffered from, the King's private physician Samir Farraj, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.



He said the King would need to go back to the clinic in six months for his third checkup since his operation last August.

King Hussein, who is fond of sports and maintains a busy work schedule, has complained of feeling tired after the surgery.

He is expected to return to Amman Wednesday. His visit to Washington, which ended on Friday is seen as a triumph in improving relations chilled by the Gulf war.

The King, who was paying a state visit to Washington, held talks with President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials as well as congressional leaders in what was seen as a turning point in Jordanian-American relations following the strain in ties caused by the Gulf war.

The discussions the King had in Washington covered the Middle East peace process, the democratisation process under way in Jordan and bilateral relations as well as the Kingdom's stands vis-a-vis various regional and international issues.

## Jordan regrets attack on Iraq and condoles families of victims

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday expressed "sorrow and sadness" over the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad in which Iraq says eight civilians were killed and 12 others injured.

"The violence can only lead to further hatred and more human and material losses," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said.

The U.S. launched the pre-dawn assault on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. Iraq, which denies the allegations, said some of the 23 cruise missiles, fired from American naval ships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, hit residential areas.

Prince Hassan said the attack, the first in six months, would not have occurred had the Arab stance been "more steadfast" and Shura (counsel) prevailed.

"... Shura is the basis that leads people to better lives, safeguard rights and drives away tyranny and aggression," the Crown Prince told a graduation ceremony of the military wing at Muta University.

Prince Hassan said Jordan believes in resolving conflicts through dialogue and in accordance with United Nations principles which "advocate circumventing all recourse to violence."

The Crown Prince offered condolences to the families of the victims on behalf of the King, government and people of Jordan and hoped that "God will ease their suffering."

The attack, which was supported by America's Western allies in the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, drew strong condemnation from various political parties in Jordan.

"This (the attack) is a part of the American crusade against the Arab and Muslim nations."

America is fabricating excuses to humiliate any Arab that stands up to it," Ibrahim Khreisat, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament, told the Jordan Times Sunday.

President of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishaq Al Farhan rejected the American justification for the attack saying that military action should not have been taken before resorting to dialogue.

"Who decides," he asked, "that the American allegations are true. Which judicial authority said they were true?"

Condemning the attack as unjustifiable, Dr. Farhan said the U.S. "aggression gives a bad name to the new world order and shows bad implementation of (its) premises."

"The American's aggression on... Baghdad reflects the determination of the American administration to humiliate and torture our people in Iraq," the centrist Al Ahd party said.

The party said in a statement the cruise missile blitz on Iraq confirms that the American political decision is hostage to pressure groups, lobbies and oil companies.

Urging an Arab and international effort to end what it called the torture of "our people in Iraq," the party said the American justifications for Sunday's attack "were ridiculous."

"The U.S. is making excuses to attack the Arabs. Any one with a sense of humanity would not accept that a powerless people be attacked in this way," said Mr. Khreisat.

"Once again, the United States, through its animosity towards Arabs and Muslims," the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said in a statement faxed to the Jordan Times.

The American bombardment of Iraqi installations, said the statement, "is another form of piracy and terrorism."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday inspects a guard of honour at Muta University as part of a graduation ceremony at the university (Petra photo)

## Regent pays tribute to Armed Forces and Muta University

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday said that increased military preparedness and training was the main means to confront challenges.

"We are exerting all efforts to provide the Armed Forces with the most up-to-date equipment, and are doing all we can to offer the army the best training so that it can live up to the nation's expectations," the Regent said at a graduation ceremony at Muta University.

"We consider each member of

this military institution as a cauldron of knowledge acquiring further skill in order to serve his country and nation," Prince Hassan said.

Paying tribute to the Armed Forces, the Regent said: "They fought hard to protect the land of Palestine and their efforts and their performance are reflected in the international arena where their units are currently serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in Croatia, Cambodia and Angola."

"These troops offer humanita-

rian assistance and relief to the embattled nations following in the footsteps of their leader His Majesty King Hussein," he said.

"The Armed Forces will continue to serve as a shield for the nation, protecting its soil, defending the nation's values, principles and Islamic faith," he said.

"Following in the footsteps of the ancestors of this nation at the beginning of the present century, we have to shoulder our responsi-

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## Qadhafi ready to hand over Pan Am suspects to Jackson

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has offered to hand over to U.S. black rights activist Jesse Jackson two suspects indicted in the West for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

But the Libyan leader, in an interview broadcast late Saturday by the U.S. television network CNN, said the pair should not be turned over to the United States or Britain, who are demanding their extradition for trial.

Tripoli has refused to hand over the suspects for trial in either country, triggering U.N. sanctions in force since April 1992.

Colonel Qadhafi urged Mr. Jackson to set up a "big trial" for

the two Libyans for the world to "know the truth about this disaster" — the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, that claimed 270 lives.

The two Libyans "are afraid to go, they feel that they (United States and Britain) are terrorists... barbaric... they killed innocent people," Col. Qadhafi said, referring to the 1986 U.S. air strikes on Libya.

"We must look for another place, another country," he added.

The Libyan leader said he was ready to hand over the pair to Mr. Jackson, who had talks with him last week in Libya. "You are

a respected person in the world," he said, addressing the black activist.

"The Libyan people admire you and we trust you, and our friends in America trust you."

Col. Qadhafi stressed his country's innocence and said a trial set up by Mr. Jackson would "finish the hostile climate and we would exchange visits, and President (Bill) Clinton and me would meet together."

Heaping praise on Mr. Clinton, the Libyan leader described the U.S. president as a "bright star coming from the Western hemisphere, really clean, with no complexes."

Col. Qadhafi called on the Un-

ited States to "open a new chapter" to allow the return to Libya of U.S. oil firms.

Israeli peace activist Abbie Nathan, meanwhile, said he also expected to meet Col. Qadhafi on Monday or Wednesday to discuss Libya's dispute with the West.

Mr. Nathan, in Libya since Saturday, told Israeli Radio he wanted to help find a solution.

Last week, Mr. Nathan said he had the backing of Amnesty International and the International Federation of Human Rights and would urge Col. Qadhafi to make "some concession."

The initiative would pave the way for the trial in Holland of the two Libyan suspects, according to

Mr. Nathan.

Mr. Nathan is believed to be the first Israeli to receive a visa to visit Libya.

"I was picked up later on Saturday at the Tunisian southern island Djerba airport by a comfortable Libyan protocol car for the overland journey to Tripoli, and I am still waiting to meet Qadhafi," Mr. Nathan told Reuters.

The Israeli pacifist said earlier this week he wanted to test Col. Qadhafi's announcement that he is opening doors to Jews and Israelis. He said he also wanted to suggest to the Libyan leader ideas to resolve the Lockerbie crisis.

## Palestinian shot dead at Gaza roadblock

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian who drove through a roadblock after he and others shot and wounded an Israeli soldier on Sunday in the occupied Gaza Strip, military sources and Palestinians said.

Jamil Wadi, 27, of Khan Yunis refugee camp, was shot dead at the roadblock in near-by Kerara village.

Wadi's family said he was active in the Qassam military wing of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, the main target of Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion to Lebanon of 415 Palestinians.

Military sources said Wadi and two other guerrillas fired assault rifles at an army jeep on a beach area of the southern strip early on Sunday.

One of the soldiers was wounded seriously in the chest and arm and taken by helicopter to hospital in Israel.

Wadi fled in a car. Military sources said soldiers opened fire after he shot at them and ran the roadblock.

Wadi died of his wounds. The army spokesman said he did not know the fate of the other two men but Palestinians said one may have been wounded.

Military sources said Wadi was wanted for the killing of two Israeli soldiers and the wounding of a third in an ambush near a Jewish settlement in January.

Hamas activists using loudspeakers called for a three-day commercial strike in Khan Yunis to mourn Wadi's death. The army sent in forces to head off demonstrations, residents said.

Khan Yunis, a crowded impoverished area in the south of the strip, has long been a centre of Hamas militancy.

When Israel sealed off the occupied territories in late March, officials said one reason was to curb attacks on Israelis in the Khan Yunis area.



## U.S. sees Sudan as breeding ground for Islamic militants

**By Ruth Sinai**  
**The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — On a sweltering day in July 1990, a blind, barefoot Muslim cleric entered the U.S. embassy in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, and got a permit to visit the United States.

Among the followers Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman has since attracted in this country are five Sudanese arrested for allegedly plotting a campaign of bombings and assassinations in New York City.

Sudan, like Iran, is ruled according to Islamic law and has become a breeding ground for the spread of Islamic militancy.

Although Sudan's government is not known to have carried out any terrorist attacks itself, the

United States has several times in recent months considered placing it on a list of countries supporting terrorism.

It is a case of guilt by association, say U.S. officials, who note that Sudan is hosting a growing number of Iranian-sponsored groups.

"The United States is very disturbed by the close relationship that Sudan has developed with Iran," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry on Friday. "We know that Iran is a leading sponsor of international terrorism."

The relationship with Tehran began to burgeon soon after Iraq lost the 1991 Gulf war and was no longer able to help its ally, Sudan's military government.

which had overthrown civilian rulers in a 1989 coup, quickly turned to Iran where it found an eager benefactor.

Soon after, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Khartoum and Sudan's government announced the imposition of Islamic law. Women were to don veils and courts were to practice according to the Koran.

"The present military government... has pursued religiously extremist policies," says the U.S. State Department's 1992 human rights report, which documents an aggressive drive to impose Islamic laws on Sudan's 25 million people.

This drive, and increasing evidence of severe human rights violations, further strained U.S.-Sudanese relations, resulting in a cutoff of all U.S. military aid and in the government's Nov. 3, 1992, ban of all U.S. commercial weapons exports to Sudan.

Meanwhile, Iran was providing millions of dollars to build Islamic centres, and has sent several hundred elite military troops to train an ideologically motivated, Muslim paramilitary force called the Popular Defence Force.

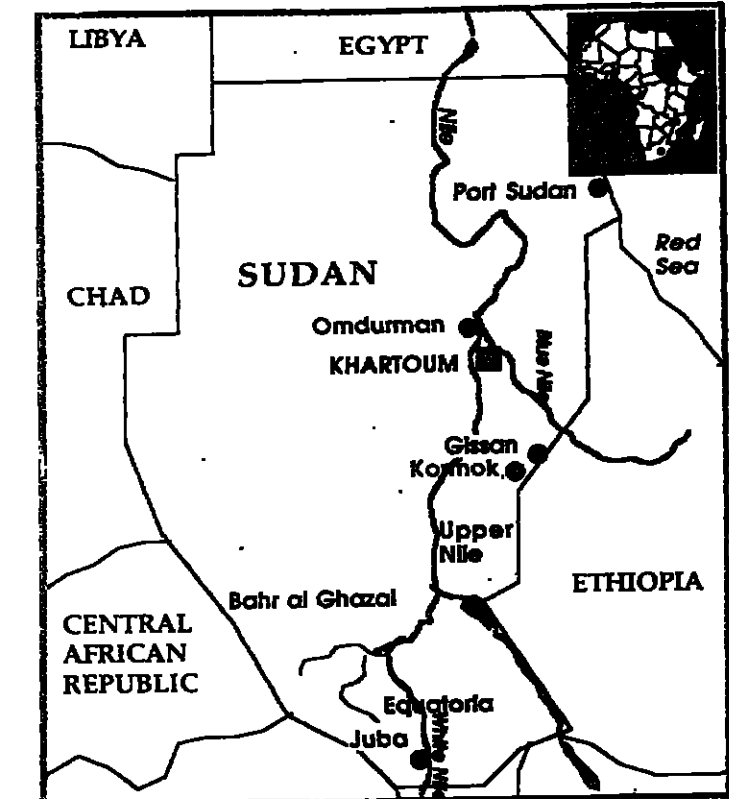
The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also began using Sudan as a base to train Muslim cadres from Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria so they can overthrow their secular governments and install Islamic rule, say U.S. and Israeli officials.

Sudan has offered offices and training facilities for several Iranian-backed groups, among them the Lebanon-based Hizbollah, as well as the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, according to the U.S. State Department.

This helped Iran at a time when it was being forced to find a new home for some of its proteges because Syria, under strong pressure from the United States, was shutting down some training facilities in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.



ON THE BEACH: Israeli soldiers patrol the beach Palestinian killed and several wounded (AFP Strip Sunday). The day's toll in the strip was one



## Israelis meet N. Koreans on missiles

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli delegation has met North Korean Communist Party officials in Peking in a bid to halt Pyongyang's missile sales to the Middle East, foreign ministry sources said Sunday.

Eytan Benzur, the ministry's deputy director-general, and his aide Avi Sison, had discussions Friday in the Chinese capital with senior party officials, the sources said.

"We hope to have further discussions with the Koreans in the future," one source said.

Israel, worried by reports that Iran has ordered a new North Korean missile capable of hitting the Jewish state, is offering economic advantages to the North Koreans if the exports are halted.

Pyongyang successfully test-launched on May 29 an updated Scud missile with a 1,000-kilometre range that could carry a nuclear warhead.

Tehran has already bought earlier versions of Scuds from the Koreans who also sell to Syria. Iraq fired 39 Scuds at Israel during the 1991 Gulf war.

According to Israeli press reports Mr. Benzur was to travel on to Tokyo and Seoul, which fears Pyongyang may be developing nuclear weapons, to report on the talks.

Israeli officials began secret contacts with North Korea last October but suspended them as the United States sought to isolate the Stalinist regime over its threatened withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

## Ross charged with moving peace talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department has given the task of advancing the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks to Dennis Ross, the official who conceived the idea during the administration of President George Bush.

Mr. Ross, 45, a former director of the State Department's policy planning staff, was named June 18 to the newly created post of special coordinator for the negotiations, which entered their 10th round in Washington on June 15.

In the Bush administration, Mr. Ross was considered the right-hand man of then-Secretary of State James Baker.

According to a former diplomat, Mr. Ross convinced a hesitant Baker to become involved in the Middle East peace process.

"Ross is one of the most creative foreign policy makers. He played a crucial role in engineering the peace process," said Robert Satloff, director of the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

Mr. Satloff said Mr. Ross' appointment "proves a higher level of American engagement (to the process) but not unlimited," since the post is only for six months.

But Mr. Ross will not have any decision-making powers, pointed out other Middle East specialists, who say his longtime ties to the former Republican government will keep him from becoming close to President Bill Clinton.

The Washington Post described Mr. Ross, a former academician, as "a hardcore policy wonk" and an unrelenting negotiator who does not get discouraged by the difficult Middle East peace process.

"Without Dennis Ross, the

peace negotiations would never have begun. Solving the Israeli-Arab conflict is... an obsession for him," a former diplomat said.

Mr. Ross was born in San Francisco into a Jewish family but does not practice the Jewish religion.

His Jewish origin has not posed problems in his contacts with the Arab World. But Israel's far right has called him a shameful Jew who pressured the government of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to join the peace negotiations.

"This man is profoundly motivated by his will to bring peace. He knows how to be at the same time persistent and pleasant," a Palestinian peace negotiator said.

A Jordanian peace negotiator called him "the architect of the peace process."

But other Arabs worry about Mr. Ross' pro-Israeli sympathies. Mr. Ross is slated to take a high-ranking job at the Washington Institute, a think tank considered pro-Israeli.

Mr. Ross, a specialist in former Soviet Union and Middle East policy who received his graduate and undergraduate degrees and undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles, began his government work with the Pentagon in 1972.

Between 1986 and 1988, Mr. Ross was director of Near East and South Asian Affairs on the National Security Council staff.

During this period he attracted the attention of Mr. Bush, who asked him to be one of the organisers of his presidential campaign. Mr. Ross became director of the State Department's policy planning staff in January 1989 when Mr. Bush took office.

## Most wanted Somali holds U.N. hostage

**By Andrew Hill**  
**Reuters**

MOGADISHU — Wanted warlord Mohammad Farah Aidede, now disguised as a holy man, has cast a spell over a \$1 billion U.N. plan to save Somalia from itself.

The disguise is the latest General Aidede has assumed since he melted into Mogadishu's warrens of no-go streets on June 17 when the United Nations issued a warrant for his arrest.

"That's the last we've heard of him, dressed like an old man in a turban and (with) a Koran, moving from safe house to safe house all the time," said one informed Somali official.

But since June 5, when his militia ambushed Pakistani peace-keepers, killing 24, Gen. Aidede has behaved more like a sorcerer than a holy man, hypnotising the U.N. effort.

The U.N. showed the capital last week with wanted posters offering reward for his arrest but privately U.N. officials fear he might work the same magic from a prison cell.

"He'd be doing us all a favour if he just disappeared, or died," said one U.N. official involved in relief. "Since June 5 he's had us behaving like prisoners."

Gen. Aidede's spell has confined the entire U.N. operation in Mogadishu to the heavily-fortified walls of an improvised UNOSOM compound in the American embassy on Mogadishu's outskirts.

Daily sniper attacks on peacekeepers and the firing of rocket-propelled grenades at an American tanker brimming with fuel in Mogadishu port on Friday show that while Gen. Aidede may have been silenced, he can still make his presence felt.

"We're virtually confined to barracks and can't get on with anything," confided another U.N. relief official. "Most of the top UNOSOM brass haven't set foot outside for weeks."

Officially, the U.S.-led bombing of Gen. Aidede's headquarters, arms caches and radio station this month were a turning point which would definitively stamp U.N. control over south Mogadishu, where the relief effort is based.

But unofficially the crisis remains unresolved and many fear that Gen. Aidede's arrest could spark street riots among his Haber Gedir clan faithful similar to those in which dozens of Somalis were killed after the June 5 attack.

U.N. officials say they are ready to ride such a crisis out



A Somali child awaiting food

to show their determination to stamp out attempts to undermine the U.N.'s role in Somalia, Cambodia and Bosnia.

Some 2,200 U.S. Marines are being kept in reserve offshore in four ships in the event of fresh violence. U.S. helicopters clatter overhead day and night and Harrier jump jets howl past to remind the city of the force at hand.

But the use of RPGs in the tanker attack and sniper fire show that Gen. Aidede still has the military power to be a deadly nuisance in south Mogadishu, the fieldwork he called his own and the location of all priorities.

"He's still dangerous," said a U.N. intelligence official. "He could send out women with grenades or come up with some terrorist action. We take him very seriously."

Only about 30 of the 120 foreigners overseeing relief and rehabilitation programmes throughout Somalia have returned since the June 5 attack to inspect their compounds and begin again.

The U.N. last week started its first food handouts in south Mogadishu since that attack and trumpeted the fact that its World Food Programme had sent a convoy carrying 300 tonnes of food for the impoverished Bardere region.

It was the first convoy since June 5. Another is due to leave soon for the central town of Belet Huen, also the first since the killing of the Pakistanis.

The U.N. says the relief effort outside Mogadishu is proceeding normally and that violent events in the capital distort the big picture. But others are sceptical.

## Iraqi rebels condemn Kurdish attacks

LONDON (Agency) — Iraqi opposition parties have condemned as terrorism an ongoing wave of attacks by Kurdish separatists on Turkish interests in Europe.

In a statement released by the Iraqi National Congress (INC), which claims to incorporate all Iraqi opposition movements, they condemned "the terrorist attacks by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) against Turkish facilities."

The congress added it was "committed to the peaceful resolution of political conflict by democratic process," and expressed hopes that "that outstanding issues related to the Kurds in Turkey will be resolved by democratic means."

The congress also accused Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of encouraging the PKK in "international terrorist activities" and of providing "bases for the PKK in areas of northern Iraq which he controls."

The statement came after up to 700 Kurds demonstrated peacefully in Bern, Zurich and Basel in Switzerland Saturday while Kurdish extremists destroyed computer equipment in a raid on a Turkish airlines office in Strasbourg, France.

The incidents took place two days after Kurds carried out a series of coordinated attacks on Turkish interests throughout Europe which left one person dead.

About 1,000 Kurds also peacefully demonstrated before the Dutch parliament and the palace of Queen Beatrix in the Hague.

The demonstrators burned Turkish flags and observed a minute's silence in memory of their "martyrs."

Following Thursday's attacks Dutch authorities put into force extra protection measures in Turkish interests in the country with armoured cars stationed in front of the diplomatic mission and roads to the Turkish ambassadors' residence in the Hague blocked.

About 40,000 Kurds live in the Netherlands.

PKK guerrillas killed the district head of Turkey's left-wing opposition party in the southwestern town of Erzurum Sunday after kidnapping him on Friday the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

Police found the body of Ilic district head Ismet Turkmen of the Republican Populist Party (CHP).

More than 6,200 people have been killed in PKK's campaign for an independent state in Turkey's southeast.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Civilians desert Sudan rebel areas

KARTHOUM (AFP) — Some 34,000 people have recently moved from areas controlled by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — rebels to areas under government control in Sobat province of northeast Upper Nile state. Province Commissioner Peitz Charpe-northeast in a statement published by the Al Ingaz Al Watani daily men said that the displaced people had been resettled in the province's Nigudiyar and Aweil regions and were provided services with the help of relief organisations. A total 177 tonnes of relief goods delivered by river barges from Kosti were distributed to the needy people in the province. Meanwhile, the commissioner of the voluntary action, Abdul Rahman Abu Doam, announced that 48 relief organisations had so far registered with the commission. Only four small organisations failed to register but were expected to do so by the end of the month. If they fail to register by that time they will not be allowed to operate in Sudan. Mr. Doam did not identify the four organisations.

### UAE to form company to host weddings

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan Saturday asked investors to contribute to a new company that will arrange cheap marriages. He asked six of his children to contribute 500,000 dirhams (\$136,000) each to the new firm to encourage local investors, mainly businessmen, to acquire shares "in this charitable project," the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. Labour and Social Affairs Minister Saif Al Jarwan, who heads a special "marriage fund," said a meeting would be held soon to set up the company. He said all UAE citizens were welcome to invest in the company which will build eight complexes nationwide, each consisting of a restaurant and two adjoining wedding halls — one for female guests and the other for men. Sheikh Zayed has repeatedly criticised lavish weddings and exorbitant dowry demands which have led many UAE males to seek foreign wives. UAE bridegrooms who marry local women are offered \$20,000 from the marriage fund which has an annual budget of at least 50 million dirhams (\$13.6 million). More than 70 per cent of the UAE's two million population are foreigners employed in the oil-rich Gulf Arab state.

### Indonesia denies reports of meeting with Israel

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry has denied reports that Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had a formal meeting with his Israeli counterpart and discussed the possible setting up of diplomatic ties. The official Antara news agency Sunday quoted a ministry statement denying reports carried by Abu Dhabi-based Arabic daily Al Itihad that said Mr. Alatas had met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. According to the daily, Mr. Alatas and Mr. Peres had discussed the possibility of setting up diplomatic ties between Indonesia and Israel. The Ministry said that Mr. Alatas just happened to be on the same table with Mr. Peres at a luncheon held for delegation chiefs at the conference. During conversation between the two foreign ministers Mr. Peres had inquired as to when their two countries might set up diplomatic links, the statement said, adding that Mr. Alatas had replied reports were not possible until the issue of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli dispute were settled.

### Chinese vice premier visits Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz Saturday discussed ways of reinforcing bilateral trade with Chinese Vice-Premier for Trade Li Lanqing, the official SPA news agency said. Mr. Li is visiting Saudi Arabia as part of a tour of Gulf Arab monarchies and Iran to attract investment and explore new markets for Chinese exports. He also discussed ways of boosting private investments in the two countries in talks with Trade Minister Sulayman Al Salim as well as ways of promoting trade fairs in China and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Li has already been to Kuwait, Riyadh and Peking set up diplomatic relations in July 1990. The volume of trade between the two countries rose to \$600 million last year from \$200 million in 1990, according to China's ambassador in Saudi Arabia, Sun Bigan.

### 3 Somali refugees in suicide attempt in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Three Somalis tried to choke themselves to death at a Sri Lankan airport in protest over their prolonged detention, the Sunday Observer said. It said that the three, detained for over a month after arriving in Colombo without proper travel papers, set fire to foam rubber pillows and filled their windowless room in the airport with smoke in a suicide attempt Saturday. The fire was doused by securitymen who noticed smoke creeping under the locked door. The three were taken away to another room. The newspaper said that the three, all males, had pleaded with authorities to expedite their return but there had been little action taken. The report said the Somalis were waiting to return home. It did not say why the three had travelled to Colombo. Airport and immigration officials were not available for comment.

### Village cordoned off in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police cordoned off a southern village Sunday to search for Muslim extremists who shot dead a policeman. The victim, Fekry Fadel, was the fifth policeman killed by Islamic radicals in southern Egypt this week. Gunmen shot him down early Sunday as he left his home in Dairut, one of the most active areas for extremists during an 18-month campaign against Egypt's largely secular government. Dairut is about 200 kilometres south of Cairo and 25 kilometres north of a main militant centre, Assiut. More than 170 people have died in the confrontation. This week's police killings in and around Assiut seem to be in retaliation for last Wednesday's execution of an extremist, the second among 22 military courts have sentenced to die so far. The Assiut-area killings began Thursday. Five days after the first execution on June 13, a nail-packed bomb, also believed to be the work of Muslim extremists, exploded in a crowded Cairo suburb. It killed seven and wounded 18.

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 77111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

18:00	Quentin Durward
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	And Baby Makes Five
21:10	The story of Hollywood
22:00	News in English
22:30	Jordan Weekly
22:40	Street Justice

**PRAYER TIMES**

03:52	Fajr
05:27	Sunrise
12:38	Dhuhr
16:19	Asr
19:50	Maghreb
21:25	Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweteth. Tel. 510740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 62366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62311

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 849362  
Dr. Ahmad Yousef ..... 78638  
Dr. Yousef Naser ..... 751144  
Dr. Tami Tari ..... 78710  
Firas pharmacy ..... 641912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 770336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636740  
Yaacoub pharmacy ..... 649945  
Shamecan pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891225  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 659000  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Amman Municipality ..... 641646  
Repairs ..... 661177  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 681000  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381/332  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 64281/6  
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. .... 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhot, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeicani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeicani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muhsin Hospital ..... 6722219  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 661177  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marjeh ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09982540  
Riyadh (RJ) ..... 09986732  
The Sina Hospital ..... 09986732  
Al Hilma Modern Hospital ..... 09986990

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:15	Sanaa (RJ)
06:30	Damascus (RJ)
06:45	Jeddah (RJ)
06:55	Riyadh (RJ)
07:00	Cairo, Asaba (RJ)
07:05	Beirut (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

09:15	Beirut (ME)
09:30	Aden (AL)
09:30	Khartoum (SU)
09:30	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:40	Istanbul (TK)
11:40	Amsterdam (KL)
12:35	Cairo (MS)
13:15	Dubai (EM)
13:45	Moscow (SU)
14:45	Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
01:45	Dubai (KL)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple	700 / 700
Banana	600 / 600
Banana (Mukammal)	620 / 620
Beans	440 / 140
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	300 / 20
Cauliflower	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	70 / 30
Cucumbers (small)	150 / 100
Eggplant	120 / 60
Garlic	600 / 50
Lemon	600 / 100
Marrow (large)	140 / 90
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Mint	70 / 30
Onion (dry)	150 / 100
Orange	300 / 200
Pepper (hot)	180 / 120
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	180 / 120
Tomato	80 / 50

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

07:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
08:15	London (RJ)
08:25	Frankfurt (RJ)
08:30	Cairo (RJ)
08:35	Dhahran (RJ)
08:40	Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
08:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
08:50	Damascus (RJ)
08:55	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
09:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

09:15	Beirut (ME)
09:30	Aden (AL)
09:30	Khartoum (SU)
09:30	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:40	Istanbul (TK)
11:40	Amsterdam (KL)
12:35	Cairo (MS)
13:15	Dubai (EM)
13:45	Moscow (SU)
14:45	Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
01:45	Dubai (KL)



## Vocational corporation to train unemployed, expand programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ahmad Atwan Sunday said the corporation will train unemployed young men and women in a variety of trades to take the place of guest workers and will expand vocational training programmes for women and increase related centres by seven.

He said the VTC will also adopt measures to double its capacity to finance its own projects and will also increase its programmes to encourage unemployed citizens to train in one of the trades that can ensure employment and steady income, said Mr. Atwan.

Since its establishment in 1976, said Mr. Atwan, the VTC has provided vocational training to 75,554 young men and women. The youth, he said, have had extra training in private sector factories and workshops.

In recent years, the VTC has been focusing on training young men and women in construction, hotel management, restaurant services, weaving, printing, machinery maintenance and baking to meet requirements of the local labour market, he noted.

Despite its efforts, the VTC still faces major challenges such as a disorganised labour market, low level technical efficiency, negligence in occupational safety, poor industrial guidance services and the mounting problem of unemployment, said Mr. Atwan.

He said the VTC's training programmes range from three months to two years, noting that plans are underway for training 16,000 young men and women this year.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets with visiting World Food Programme Executive Director Catherine Bertini (Petra photo)



A husband and wife prune a young fig tree in the maintenance stage of a World Food Programme supported project in Jordan

## World Food Programme director winds up visit

### Crown Prince urges coordinating U.N. efforts in development process

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Winding up a four-day visit to Jordan, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Catherine Bertini Sunday was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who voiced appreciation of the role of the WFP in Jordan.

Prince Hassan underlined the need to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations development agencies with the objective of organising the process of exploiting resources to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development.

The Regent also briefed Ms. Bertini on the humanitarian dimension of the development process, saying the success of these projects is linked to their success in developing humanitarian conditions of their beneficiaries.

Ms. Bertini expressed her appreciation of the Jordanian achievement at the level of comprehensive development and the Kingdom's ability to adapt to economic and social changes.

Ms. Bertini was also received Sunday by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare (QAF) to discuss expanding the nutrition project carried out jointly by QAF, WFP and the Ministry of Education.

The WFP chief also met with several senior officials including Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz.

At a press conference Sunday Ms. Bertini said she was quite pleased with the status of WFP-supported projects in Jordan, adding that wherever she toured in the last three days she saw "rows and rows of carefully planted trees" which she described as "the programme at work."

Ms. Bertini, who arrived in Amman Thursday on a four-day official visit to the Kingdom, said the programme has three ongoing projects valued at \$37 million. The major area of WFP involvement is the development of the highland agricultural regions.

Here farmers are assisted in planting orchards on their own land.

The WFP support, she said, consists of providing tree saplings, agricultural extension services and food aid.

The food aid concept works as an incentive for farmers to work towards successful ventures, said WFP Director in Jordan M. Majed Fassih.

"We make sure food assistance is parallel with work achieved," Mr. Fassih, told the press conference. The aid works on a three year basis, he explained: food installments are distributed during one year of planting and two years of maintenance.

"The farmer need not be concerned with feeding the family during the three years prior to the harvest and WFP guarantees that the farmer follows through on the project by allocating the food packages according to the success of the activities," Mr. Fassih said.

Cost-sharing, which entails the farmer paying for his labour and purchasing some of his input, supports the aim of the programme in encouraging self-reliance and not food aid dependency, Mr. Fassih maintained.

Another WFP project is the assistance to primary schools, literary centres, social development centers and kindergartens in the rural areas. Although Ms. Bertini acknowledged that she was unable to visit the schools as classes were in recess for the summer, she said the ongoing project fed about 60,000 children and an average of 2,600 adults in the literacy programmes annually.

Ms. Bertini said the third project, designed to expand forests and rangelands, benefits 2,500 labourers, 1,500 agricultural cooperative members and 350 small farmers in the Zarqa River Catchment area.

With the programme's assistance over the years, trees have been planted on 152,000 dunums, terraces covering 124,000 dunums have been constructed and 96,000 dunums of rangeland have been planted.

WFP is the largest multilateral food aid organisation in the world

and source of grant aid in the U.N. system. Last year the programme supplied a record 5.2 million tonnes of food aid to an estimated 42 million people worldwide.

For Jordan, according to a WFP statement, the programme is the largest source of multilateral official development assistance.

The WFP commitment to Jordan is higher on a per capita basis than in most countries, Ms. Bertini told the press. When asked later why Jordan was such a large recipient of food aid, Ms. Bertini explained that WFP assistance began very early in this region, and the Jordanian government expressed strong interest to cooperate in the programme and use its resources.

Asked about one of its first projects which involved the resettlement of the bedouins and how that came to be a controversial issue decades later, Ms. Bertini explained resettlement was the wish of the government, and although the project was well scrutinised by the WFP, the agency was not directly involved in the social aspects of the scheme.

The priority for WFP was to develop the rangelands and support small activities which would help people become self-reliant. "In this respect, she said, the aim of the agency is to target the poorest people.

In response to an inquiry about the nutritional value of the food distributions, Ms. Bertini explained that the food aid is provided as a package that considers a balance of nutritional interests and the peoples' interests, which justifies the sugar and black tea items provided for in the package, along with meat, dairy, grain and legumes.

Ms. Bertini said she met a farmer who had been with the programme over 20 years ago and who now ran his own successful farming enterprise, and she met others who had recently become involved and expressed satisfaction with the project.

She said she was delighted to see that the WFP programme was continuing to benefit Jordan.



MADABA GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Sunday attends a graduation ceremony at the Latin Patriarch School in Madaba. School Principal Father Yacoub Hijazeen delivered an address at the ceremony in which he welcomed Princess Sarvath and praised her keen interest in educational activities. Father Hijazeen also commended the stands of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Health ministry to create research office

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday announced plans to create an office to conduct research on all technical projects carried by the ministry. The office will also conduct studies at the ministry's request on other issues and programmes.

### Labour minister meets with unions head

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi Sunday received at the ministry Secretary General of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Khaled Shreim for talks. Mr. Ghazawi underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination among the unions, associations, employers, the representatives of the industry and trade chambers and the ministry and called on all parties to work as one team to serve their mutual interests and the interests of Jordan.

### Trade minister meets with Mauritanian, Singaporean envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Sunday met with the honorary consul of Mauritania Ali Al Haleb who conveyed to him a message from his Mauritanian counterpart on scopes of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Saket also met with the non-resident ambassador of Singapore to Jordan, Hai Ding Chiang, and discussed with him areas of economic and commercial cooperation between Jordan and Singapore.

### Human rights centre calls meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Constituent Assembly of the Arab Freedoms, Democracy and Human Rights Studies Centre Najib Al Rashdan Sunday called for a meeting of the assembly next Wednesday at the Parliament.

### 2 rural markets to open in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Princess Basma Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will open two rural markets in Irbid city and the neighbouring town of Qumeim to market agricultural produce and home-made items of rural families. Centre Director Nabih Al Roussan said the two markets will include agriculture produce, food supplies, handicrafts, artificial flowers, knit-wear and embroidered items.

### HUDD receives applications for housing awards

AMMAN (Petra) — Director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Yousef Hiyasat Saturday evening announced that the corporation has started receiving applications for the 1993 Arab Housing and Construction Awards. The first award, named the Hassan Fathi Award, will be granted to a project which preserves the aspects of Arab and Islamic architecture and meets the needs of citizens with limited income. Mr. Hiyasat said. He said the winner of the prize will receive a meritorial certificate plus \$5,000. The second award, he said, will be granted to the best housing project carried out in the Arab World, provided that it includes no less than 50 housing units. The winner of the second prize will receive a meritorial certificate and a golden medal, he said.

### Irbid CDD trains 2,834 citizens

IRBID (Petra) — The number of civilians who were trained on civil defence works in Irbid governorate totalled 2,834, during the past five months, according to Director of Irbid Civil Defence Department Colonel Fathi Al Saud. Col. Saud said the trainees received lectures and practical exercises on first aid, firefighting and rescue works. The department, he said, is working diligently to educate the people on public safety measures that can help CDD personnel when needed.

### GUVS donate JD 10,000 to Bosnian guests

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) extended JD 10,000 as a donation to Bosnian families hosted by Jordan. Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of GUVS Issam Ghosheh presented the sum to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is also executive president of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation, which supervises the Bosnian refugees' stay in Amman. The 420 refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina are temporarily staying at Umm Teena School in Jabal Jofeh area in Amman since they arrived here two weeks ago.

## Community, health centres to go up in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Sunday awarded a JD 170,000 tender to a local construction firm to build a community centre and a health centre at the corporation's housing estates in Aqaba.

Corporation Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the two centres will serve nearly 8,000 families living in the housing estates of North Shallaleh and Al Khazzan districts established by the corporation over the past few years.

The community centre is designed to train local housewives in income-generating activities, said Mr. Hiyasat.

The centre will also conduct training courses in child health and mother care and other social and health fields to promote and improve conditions in the two housing estates, added Mr. Hiyasat.

He said once the health centre is completed, the Health Ministry will provide the necessary medical equipment and install the health services for the local residents.

Mr. Hiyasat said community and health centres are regular features of all corporation housing projects around the country.

## TCC disrupts service to 27,500 subscribers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the second day Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) offices around the country witnessed a rush by telephone subscribers to pay their back-due bills.

TCC Director General Ahmad Nawawi told the Jordan Times that subscribers who failed to pay their telephone bills for service between February and April this year have had their services partially disrupted.

The partial disconnection means that delinquent subscribers can receive calls, but can not make them, he explained.

A total of 27,500 subscribers around the country, including 13,000 in the Greater Amman area alone, whose total combined bills are estimated at nearly JD 8 million, have been affected by the punitive measure taken Saturday, said Mr. Nawawi.

He said the move followed repeated announcements through the press that the TCC would be forced to take this measure unless the bills were paid.

Delinquent subscribers have one week to settle their bills or face total disconnection for 30 days, after which their subscriptions will be cancelled, noted Mr. Nawawi.

The TCC has placed additional staff at its centres in Amman and the other governorates which will remain open from eight a.m. until three p.m. to cope with the large number of subscribers rushing to pay their bills with the one week allowed, said the TCC chief.

## Technical failures blamed for recent water shortages

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent water shortages in the greater Amman area were caused by technical failures, but the inconveniences are about to end with a gradual easing of the situation within the next few days, said Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Qusai Quteishat.

Mr. Quteishat told the Jordan Times that regions in southern Amman received little water following a technical failure at the electricity generation unit in southern Amman which rendered pumping stations idle.

He said the shortage in southern Amman also coincided with technical failures causing low level pumping from the Khaw area on the eastern side and a similar failure in the Zai station west of the capital.

His statement followed repeated complaints by the public, some of whom said water had not reached their homes for almost a month in certain districts. WAJ Assistant Secretary General Siman Khleifat said the water distribution programme was being followed, but certain failures were inevitable.

He cited the increased water consumption during the recent heat wave, mechanical and technical failures at pumping stations, and power failure in several regions as reasons for the water shortages in the Amman area.

WAJ's technical teams were working non-stop to correct the failures and repair damaged parts in the water networks, noted Mr. Khleifat.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbeela Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Childhood" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings in watercolour, oil and acrylics by Mrs. Heidi Eysers at the British Council — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Samia Zaru at the Marriott Hotel.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Tawaneh and the Via Nova Traina: the 1992 Explorations in Southern Jordan," by Dr. Zbigniew T. Fiema at the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) at 7 p.m.

### FILM

- ★ French-subtitled German film entitled "Der Junge Törless" at 8 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (1966, 87 min.)

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## Malhas inspects conditions in several Amman areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday toured several areas in Amman to inspect health conditions and services.

The ministry's tour, which took him to Ras Al Ain, Abdoun, Hai Nazzal and Al Qaisiya areas, follows a similar visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Dr. Malhas inspected waste water leaking from houses and garbage disposal sites and said that garbage accumulation in the Abdoun valley might lead to epidemics.

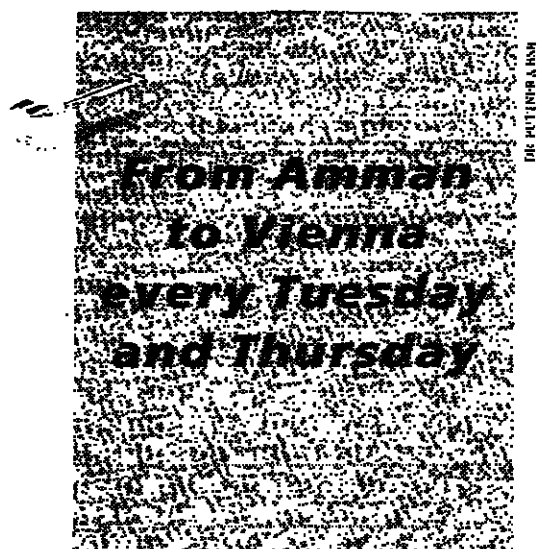
Saying that although it was not the direct responsibility of his ministry, Dr. Malhas pointed out that it would help get rid of pollutants which might cause health problems.

The minister attributed the problem to the haphazard way these popular houses were built in the Abdoun valley.

## RJ visits PIA offices in Karachi



The Royal Jordanian delegation said that the purpose of this visit was to further enhance and strengthen the existing brotherly relations between the two countries and to explore all aspects of coordination and cooperation between the two airlines in various fields.



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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## Retext worse than guilt

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton campaigned for the White House with a promise of change: The American economy would improve, Americans would have more jobs, better standards of living, a new American era of wealth and prosperity. But all these remained promises and the popularity of the "incredible shrinking president" hit alarming lows. There is little he can do to implement his domestic agenda, so the embattled Clinton decides to bomb Iraq in a bid to boost his image at home.

The reason behind Sunday's American missile attack on Iraq cannot possibly be Iraq's alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. To start with, no American court has ruled that Baghdad was guilty of masterminding the "plot" against Bush. And even if U.S. jurisprudence or political gurus allow that kind of determination to stand, America cannot be the judge and the executioner at the same time.

The second point that makes the attack against Iraq unjustifiable is, or should be, closely related to the trial of the suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing. U.S. officials often speak about connections between the alleged bombers and Iran. Why has Washington not retaliated against that state already?

With this in mind, it is unfortunate that a new and open-minded president, like Clinton, should allow himself to be cornered by domestic challenges and surrender his policy-making process on Iraq to hard-line advisors who prefer guns and the use of force to a peaceful, definitely more productive approach.

President Clinton seems to have failed to understand what his predecessor also would not acknowledge: Violence is not going to solve the problem in the Arab Gulf.

There were two major victims to Sunday's attack: The Iraqi people and America's credibility in the region. Neither could afford to suffer more.

The Iraqi people have for long been subjected to consequences of a policy on which they have no say. They did not participate in planning the alleged plot on Mr. Bush just like they were not consulted on the decision to invade Kuwait.

That the United States knows but ignores this fact is a sad story indeed. Worse still, America is adding to the ordeal of this people by denying them their basic right to lifting the trade embargo, and bombing their cities at will.

President Clinton should stop punishing the victim, and his country should start acting like the world leader it is supposed to be. Double standards will not do. The Americans cannot bomb Iraq for what it allegedly planned to do while they tolerate the terror that the Serbs are inflicting upon Muslim Bosnians, for example. The Americans cannot justify that Iraq is being punished for violating Security Council resolutions while denying that the Serbs, the Israelis, the Turks are doing the same thing. Unless cruise missiles are going to hit these countries very soon the Americans cannot be the angels and the guardians of the new world order that the world has hoped for.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Sunday welcomed a tour of the Middle East region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher if the tour is aimed at giving some momentum to the hitherto unfruitful Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Reports from Washington said that Mr. Christopher will next month make shuttle visits to the capitals of the Middle East region with a view to stimulating work towards the establishment of peace and security, said the paper. We of course welcome such moves because they indicate that Washington is truly concerned about the process and is willing to play the role of full partner in the peace talks, said the daily. But what remains to be seen, added the daily, is whether Washington is committed to also help implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and help the Arabs and the Israelis exchange land for peace because these are basic requirements for the attainment of a just settlement, continued the daily. It said that the status of Jerusalem should essentially be included in the peace talks if the current negotiations are to achieve any progress. The American administration ought to take into consideration Arab rights in Jerusalem and ought to put an end to Israel's intransigence and its threats to withdraw from the talks if the Arabs continued to insist on discussing Jerusalem, demanded the paper. But, added the paper, if the coming U.S. secretary of state's visit is aimed at putting pressure on the Palestinians to give up their demand that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda, then his mission is bound to end in total failure.

AL DUSTOUR cast a pessimistic look at the ongoing peace talks in Washington, noting that the two weeks of negotiations ended in fiasco. No progress has been achieved towards a lasting settlement on any of the tracks, largely due to Israel's intransigent position and Washington's failure to live up to its commitment and promises to play the role of active partner in the talks, said the daily. Perhaps the Israeli delegation is not authorised to go deeper into discussions on matters of substance and therefore the Israeli government is to be regarded responsible for any failure towards attaining a settlement with the Arab parties, continued the daily. It is clear to the world that the peace talks are moving around in circles and it is futile for the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to visit the region to discuss means of stimulating the peace negotiations if the Israelis are not yet ready for efforts for serious efforts to arrive at peace.

## Weekly Political Pulse

### HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

## Successful to what extent?

NOW THAT the World Conference on Human Rights is over, the big question that remains is whether it was worth the money and effort poured into it. On balance, the Vienna meeting did not produce anything dramatic in the field of human rights. The tug-of-war between the various groupings of nations that attended it left little room for a real breakthrough.

In many ways the international conference resembled a rope with two major camps pulling in different and opposing directions. With the Asian group on the one side and the western group on the other, the Latin American and African countries were caught in between, leaning towards one side on some issues and towards the other side on others. The biggest fear was that the gathering would end up in a fiasco, with nothing to show for. Yet at the end, there was a final declaration, dubbed as the Vienna Declaration, when at the outset few expected it to happen.

The biggest anxiety from the human rights point of view was whether the bare minimum of human rights as revealed and enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948 would be preserved. The central theme of that international pronouncement was the universality of human rights predicated on the proposition that there are certain basic human rights that all states must promote and protect no matter what their cultural or economic peculiarities are. The 1948 declaration was conceived and promulgated by a mere 54 states, members of the United Nations back in 1948, hardly a number that would suggest a universal adoption. Now there are more than 180 states in the world and had they backed up on the Universal Declaration of 1948, it would have been a major retreat for the cause of human

rights. This did not happen.

Some 170 countries took part in the Vienna meetings, buttressed by no less than hundreds of non-governmental organisations from all corners of the world. When they concluded their deliberations late Friday evening, they endorsed a declaration which enshrined the 1948 declaration. The original fear that the new international community would not even honour the 1948 declaration did not happen. If anything, the Vienna Declaration consolidated the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and extended its scope by elucidating even more the interrelations between civil and political rights on one hand, and the economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

The concept of indivisibility won the day when the western nations did not yield to the arguments of the poorer nations of the world that there is an inescapable link between the various dimensions of human rights. To this extent at least the Vienna conference was a success even though there were hardly any new dramatic breakthroughs on the need to have an international human rights court or on the idea of elevating the post of the international ombudsman on human rights within the United Nations system.

It is no secret that there are still several states in the world that are afraid of human rights and had resorted to all sorts of tactics to derail the Vienna momentum. Such states did not carry the day and were truly isolated by the greater majority of countries. The notion of absolute sovereignty, a mainstay of the states hostile to the cause of human rights, was resoundingly defeated and silenced forever. To this extent also, the Vienna conference was a big success.

## Saudi Arabia and the 'Islamic threat'

Following is an editorial that appeared in the June 11, 1993 issue of the London-based Middle East International.

AT A time when the western world still shows a growing tendency to identify mainstream Islam with extremism, the notion is becoming increasingly untenable. This is especially true of the Arab World. Thirty years ago it was the supposedly secularist Arabs — the Nasserists and Ba'athists — who were seen as the danger; the more conservative Muslim regimes were considered non-revolutionary, profoundly anti-Soviet and therefore trusted allies of the West. The truth was always more complex, but today the confusion is greater.

There are several reasons why this should be so. Nasserism, Ba'athism and Communism are no longer threats to western interests in the Middle East whereas militant Islam — whether in the Maghreb, Sudan, Levant or Iran — most clearly is. (Iraq, while still nominally Ba'athist, is better described as Saddamist and it raised the banner of extremist Islam during the Gulf crisis). Israel adds its influential voice to assert that Islamic fundamentalism is now a world threat to justify its claim to be protecting the Middle East against it. Yet what is happening in the Islamic heartland of the Arabian Peninsula should at least give food for thought.

That one of the Arab World's leading left-wing secularist writers, the Egyptian Lutfi Al Kholy, should be invited to Saudi Arabia, where he has long been regarded as anathema, to give a series of public lectures attended by Saudi princes is surprising enough, but that he should be able to suggest in them that there are elements of Arab civilisation which lie outside Islam is cause

for astonishment. This means no less than that the Saudi authorities are prepared to confront Islamic extremism not only as a physical threat but as an ideological or political challenge and to seek allies outside Arabia in the process.

In the past the question whether Islam and Arabism are compatible was stifled by the simple contention that they are identical. This will no longer do. Militant Islam not only de-

mine them by denouncing their moderation and softness towards the West, it is trying to rebuild its economy with western help. (Colonel Qadhafi also attacks them while making his own overtures to the West but his eccentricities can probably be ignored; he is, after all, unique in being a secularist and Islamic extremist at the same time.)

King Fahd, who always speaks with caution, has made his own

with exceptionally harsh arrogance.

One of the most important implications will be for Saudi relations with the Palestinians, and Hamas in particular. This is a delicate and complex matter — like Saudi relations with the warring Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia has given help to Hamas in the past and, despite some attempts at reconciliation, there is no love lost between any of the Gulf states and the PLO leadership. But Iran also supports Islamic militancy in Palestine while Saudi Arabia fully endorses the peace process.

The dilemma may not be as great as might appear. Most of the Hamas leaders say that they are not opposed to peace or even the recognition of Israel as such but only to the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations which so favour Israel. Their chief quarrel is with the Tunis-based PLO leadership; they can and do cooperate with Fateh in the occupied territories. There is a problem for Saudi diplomacy but it is not insurmountable.

King Fahd does have a real problem in his reliance on his U.S. friends to exert the right kind of pressure on the peace process. Here the signs are discouraging — not so much because of the Clinton administration's pro-Israel bias, although this is serious enough, but the growing indications that the U.S. is truly intent on a cost-cutting withdrawal from the problems of world leadership. If this means the abdication of Washington's role in the Middle East peace process, it will be disastrous for Arab and Muslim moderates and a triumph for the extremists. As always, the U.S. bears a large share of responsibility for the growth of the very Islamic threat it claims to fear.

positions clear. In his speech to his people at the end of the Haj he repeatedly denounced extremism and advocated a moderate approach towards a Middle East settlement — that is the exchange of territory for peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions and mutual recognition of Arabs and Israelis. Although he was saying nothing new, he has made himself a target for Iranian and Arab militants at a time when Israel is behaving

position clear. In his speech to his people at the end of the Haj he repeatedly denounced extremism and advocated a moderate approach towards a Middle East settlement — that is the exchange of territory for peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions and mutual recognition of Arabs and Israelis. Although he was saying nothing new, he has made himself a target for Iranian and Arab militants at a time when Israel is behaving

## A few things the West could do to stop explosion in the Balkans

By George Kenney

WASHINGTON — Until recently, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia was content to control the electronic media, the police, the military and some sectors of the economy, leaving the rest of society in chaos. But he is becoming an increasingly authoritarian dictator.

Now that sanctions have been broken open some of the fissures in Serbia, and with the far right gaining strength, Mr. Milosevic must simultaneously clamp down on dissent and move to the right to protect his flank. As before, his main tool is to generate hatred and turn it outwards.

What western leaders consistently fail to understand is that President Milosevic must have a war; if he declared a real peace today (he could), the Serbian people would ask what he has done for them. Within months, he would be out of power.

In Vojvodina, Serbia's northern province, Belgrade is purposefully resettling Serbian refugees from Bosnia who have experience in "ethnically cleansing" their neighbours. That threatens Vojvodina's ethnic Hungarians. Serbian dissidents from Vojvodina believe conflict could break out soon, but if Serbia pushes hundreds of thousands of Hungarians over the border into Hungary, that could drag Hungary into the war.

In the Serbian province of Kosovo, tensions continue to rise. Provocateurs are determined to set the spark that will give Serbian militants a pretext to drive most of the region's 1.8 million ethnic Albanians over the border into Albania or Macedonia.

Warnings from Washington that America is serious about Kosovo are no longer credible. The consensus in the U.S. intelligence community is the same as last year: It is not a question of whether Kosovo will explode, but when.

In Macedonia, the government waits desperately for American recognition in the hope that recognition plus economic aid and security guarantees may stop the conflict from spilling over or make it manageable if it does. The 300 American soldiers President Bill Clinton is sending constitute the beginning of a trip wire, but the U.S. military mission must have a diplomatic backstop. Otherwise, the temptation will be too great to cut and run if the fighting starts.

Greece would like part of Macedonia, as would Albania and Bulgaria; if war breaks out there, the West would need hundreds of thousands of troops to quell it.

A general Balkan war is brewing. It is still not too late for the West to begin to bring the situa-

tion under control. Here are some actions the United States and the West should consider: — Send western troops to enforce Bosnian "safe havens" around Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac, Gorazde and Srebrenica. About

50,000 to 70,000 would do the job.

If we will not protect the Muslims of Bosnia from slaughter, we should give them arms to defend themselves, including Swedish-made "smart" mortars and anti-

tank weapons.

— Enforce the U.N. injunction against Serbia's resupply of local Serbian forces in Bosnia. Put monitors on the border. If Serbia refuses them, use warplanes to

destroy all traffic between Serbia and Bosnia.

— Begin covert operations against the Milosevic regime. Try psychological warfare. Step up Radio Free Europe broadcasts. Increase by several orders of magnitude western support for Serbian opposition movements.

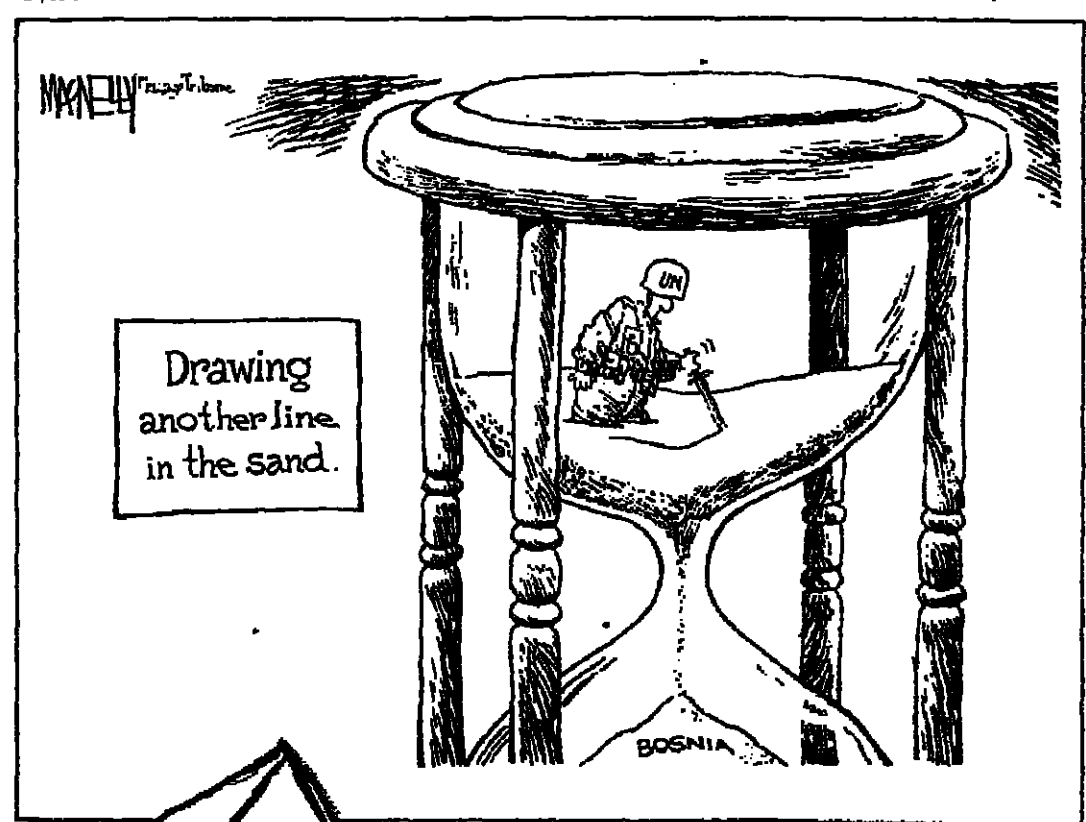
— Change the U.N. mandate in Croatia to allow de facto U.N. control — not de facto Serbian control — of U.N. zones. Put in an additional 10,000 peacekeepers. If Croatia balks, threaten sanctions. If the Serbians balk, threaten war.

For the United States, recognise Macedonia. Add 5,000 to 10,000 heavily armed U.N. troops. Provide large-scale economic aid.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration shows no stomach for U.S. involvement in the Balkans. But things change. As the crisis becomes more obviously the catastrophe that it is, President Clinton may yet decide to act.

If he does nothing and a general war begins, however, he will clearly share responsibility for it.

The writer, a consultant to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was State Department desk officer for Yugoslavia until he quit in August to protest U.S. policy. The article is reprinted from The New York Times.





## Crime wave, economic pressure cripple spirit of uprising

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

**YATTA, Occupied West Bank** — "Good reward," an ad in the daily Al Quds promises anyone who can help find a 1985 Renault 5 compact car stolen in Ramallah. Scores of cars turn up stripped and abandoned along barren stretches of road outside Yatta, 50 kilometres south of Jerusalem. The town of 40,000 does a booming business in stolen auto parts and ancient artifacts from illegal digs.

Drug abuse, burglary, even kidnappings are other aspects of a crime wave that has shocked Palestinians. Many blame the mass unemployment created by Israel's banning of Palestinian workers last March and the end of aid to the PLO by the Arab oil states, in-

cluding \$200 million a year for the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Yusef Faris, spokesman for Israel's West Bank police force, acknowledged a "noticeable increase" in burglary, car theft and assault, but attributed it in part to Palestinians feeling freer to report crimes to Israeli authorities. Mohammad Abu Ram, a Yatta brick-maker, said most workers in the town used to have construction jobs in Israel. "So now they steal cars and antiquities," said Mr. Abu Ram, 36, seated on a yellow plastic chair in a garage, next to a pair of Subaru transmissions. Little can be done, he said, because no one has money or jobs to offer. Even the activists of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) complain of not being paid. "You can't stop the whole town and you can't act against

hungry people," said Mr. Abu Ram, who spent six months in jail in 1988 for "incitement" on behalf of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO. Palestinians preying on Palestinians is a sharp contrast to the spirit of togetherness in the early years of the intifada, the uprising against Israeli rule that began in December 1987. Palestinians formed "popular committees" to help the needy, organise boycotts and demonstrations, plant community vegetable gardens and punish those who committed crimes or collaborated with Israel. There was little crime, even though the PLO forced Palestinian policemen to quit the Israeli-run force in 1988. Underground activists kept order with sometimes brutal efficiency, killing drug dealers, pimps and infor-

mers. To date, 734 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians, compared to 1,122 slain by Israelis. Warnings are still spray-painted on walls, such as "The Fatah hawks will punish drug dealers severely" on the town hall in Bethany, the West Bank town where the Bible says Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. But they no longer seem to carry the old punch. The drug problem is highly visible. An alley across from the old city of Jerusalem's landmark Damascus Gate is a meeting place for dealers. People smoke hashish in the streets. Sari Nusseibeh, a senior political adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, called it a symptom of social problems created by the cumulative pressures and sacrifices of nearly six years of revolt.

If the peace talks fail, he said, "we might have an outburst of violence that could take a variety of forms, both against Israelis and against each other." In an interview at Orient House, the seat of the emerging Palestinian shadow government, Mr. Nusseibeh criticised the underground leadership. He called for an end to the strikes and boycotts that weakened the Palestinian economy and led to joblessness and crime. "We haven't done anything with the intifada," he said. "It's totally lost the direction it used to have." Palestinians are beginning to ignore strike calls distributed in leaflets and written on walls. Stores and restaurants stay open late in some areas. Weddings and parties are held. People complain publicly.

Mr. Nusseibeh proposed working around the clock instead of striking. "The leadership needs to be more sensitive to the needs and changes, and should be courageous like it was in the beginning of the intifada," he said. "I think the time will come when people will just stop obeying those instructions by themselves. It will seem too silly." Israel has proposed "early empowerment," allowing Palestinians to take over aspects of day-to-day government from the Israeli army even before an interim settlement at the peace talks. One such area would be internal security, and 37 Palestinians went to Jordan in mid-June to study police procedure. In Yatta, Mr. Abu Ram said he would welcome creation of a Palestinian police force and has tried to get his 19-year-old son on the list of candidates. "We are not against early empowerment of the police," he said. "We want a police force, but the PLO has to be involved and in charge." Israel and the Palestinians appear to be near compromise on the issue of Palestinian police but remain at odds over Israel's demand that its forces retain exclusive policing power over 120,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied lands.

In the northern town of Nablus, Hussam Hijawi, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, said Israeli authorities had approved formation of a guard committee to oversee 24-hour unarmed street patrols. "Every day, we have people coming to our office and saying their shops were robbed or their cars were stolen," he said. "But we haven't been able to do anything for these people until now because it is a police job."

## Street life, night life: East Berlin wakes up

By Larry Thorson  
The Associated Press

**BERLIN** — After suffocating for decades under the weight of socialist realism, night life has revived in the eastern half of a city famous for helping hedonists in any way possible. That was the part of town where the English writer Christopher Isherwood, in the 1920s, found some of the wickedness for stories that inspired the musical "Cabaret."

But anyone who went east in search of the off-beat or erotic after the Berlin Wall opened in 1989 was disappointed. With few exceptions, Eastern Berlin was a desert at night.

Even a decent meal was hard to find. State-run restaurants closed in droves because no one wanted to pay hard currency for heartburn. That has changed. Now, the sidewalks are crowded at some hotspots east of the Brandenburg Gate developed by former squatters or hard-driving pros from Western Berlin. There are counterculture dives, slick theme bars, homey cafes with the radical neighbourhood weekly as reading material, cool restaurants that recall the glory days before Hit-

ler. Roland Mary said the street in front of his hit restaurant Borchardt used to be deserted. "There were no people on the street, no cars, but we knew from the beginning that customers would come from the West," said Mr. Mary. He and two other restaurant owners from Western Berlin opened Borchardt in March 1992 at 47 Franzoesischestrasse. The long-lunch crowd enjoys a high-ceilinged room restored to the 1920s look of the original Borchardt, one of Europe's leading restaurants and caterers. In the evening, a knot of people may be waiting at the door, hoping for tables. Isherwood probably could not afford Borchardt in the 1920s, when he caroused in Berlin's dives. Now, as then, there are centres of night life on both sides of the city. Western Berlin has the "golden mile" of Kurfuerstendamm area. It offers discos, restaurants ranging from reasonable to blindingly expensive, and night clubs for all sexual preferences. One of the bars, Kumpelnest 3000, attracts "chic punk women, bright boys in white jeans and

quiet Don Juans in tuxedos who regard the plush carpet bar as their living room," Stern magazine commented. In the east, Oranienburgerstrasse became a funky hit in summer 1992. A new book calls it the " geile meile," or "lecherous mile," and the curious come from around the world. The Oranienburger area is near two nightspots that operated even in the drab years: Die Distel (the thistle) where political satire reigns, and Friedrichstadt-palast, featuring nearly nude dancers in Paris-style revues. On a recent Saturday night, a half-dozen shirtless Britons with guitars lounged at the corner of Friedrichstrasse. They were drinking beer and arguing about where to go. Maybe the Oscar Wilde, an Irish bar that celebrated its second birthday May 30 and often has live music. Or to Obst und Gemüse (fruit and vegetables), Verkehrsberuhigte Ostzone (slow traffic east zone) or one of the other whimsically named bars where students talk earnestly and often spill onto the sidewalk, beers in hand. Oranienburger was a brothel district in the 1920s, cheek by jowl with the centre of Jewish life

in Berlin, and has become so again. By day, tourists admire the restored facade of the new synagogue and take somber walking tours of the old Jewish quarter. By night, Oranienburgerstrasse is jammed with pub crawlers, voyeurs ogling scantily clad prostitutes, carloads of teenagers from Western Berlin howling at the whores. It also holds the heart of the counterculture, an old department store that looks as if allied bombers hit it last month, not in 1943. The semi-ruin is called Tacheles, Yiddish for "brass tacks" or "straight talk." Three months after the Berlin Wall came down, squatters created Tacheles for artists who had been suppressed in Communist East Germany. The real estate has become fabulously valuable, so the former squatters propose to renovate the ruin and erect a commercial building behind it that will support the cultural activities. "We want to run it without subsidy, to keep the spirit and make art for everybody," said Jochen Sandig, 25, a leader of Tacheles, which seeks to be a "cultural base of a modern, open-to-the-world metropolis between

East and West Europe." In the Tacheles "sculpture garden" are a bus half-buried in sand, pieces of MiG fighters and figures welded together from scrap. On a Tacheles stage, a young man wearing only briefs and boots, his body painted in fluorescent colours, played guitar chords and made noises into a microphone. Eastern Berlin is the main venue for the drug-soaked technomusic scene, which often happens in one of the many abandoned factories. "The band is the hammer and the crowd is the anvil," said a review of a recent techno-event. It did not say whether anyone survived. A quieter scene is available in the Prenzlauer Berg neighbourhood, where squatters took over a building and created Cafe Westphal as a place for artists to let off steam. "After a while, many curious people came from the West, so it's a good mixture of the public," said Dirk Happeke, one of the communal staff. Prenzlauer Berg claims to be a centre of east-west talk on the eastern side of united Berlin. One of its many new cafes is called Bläbä.

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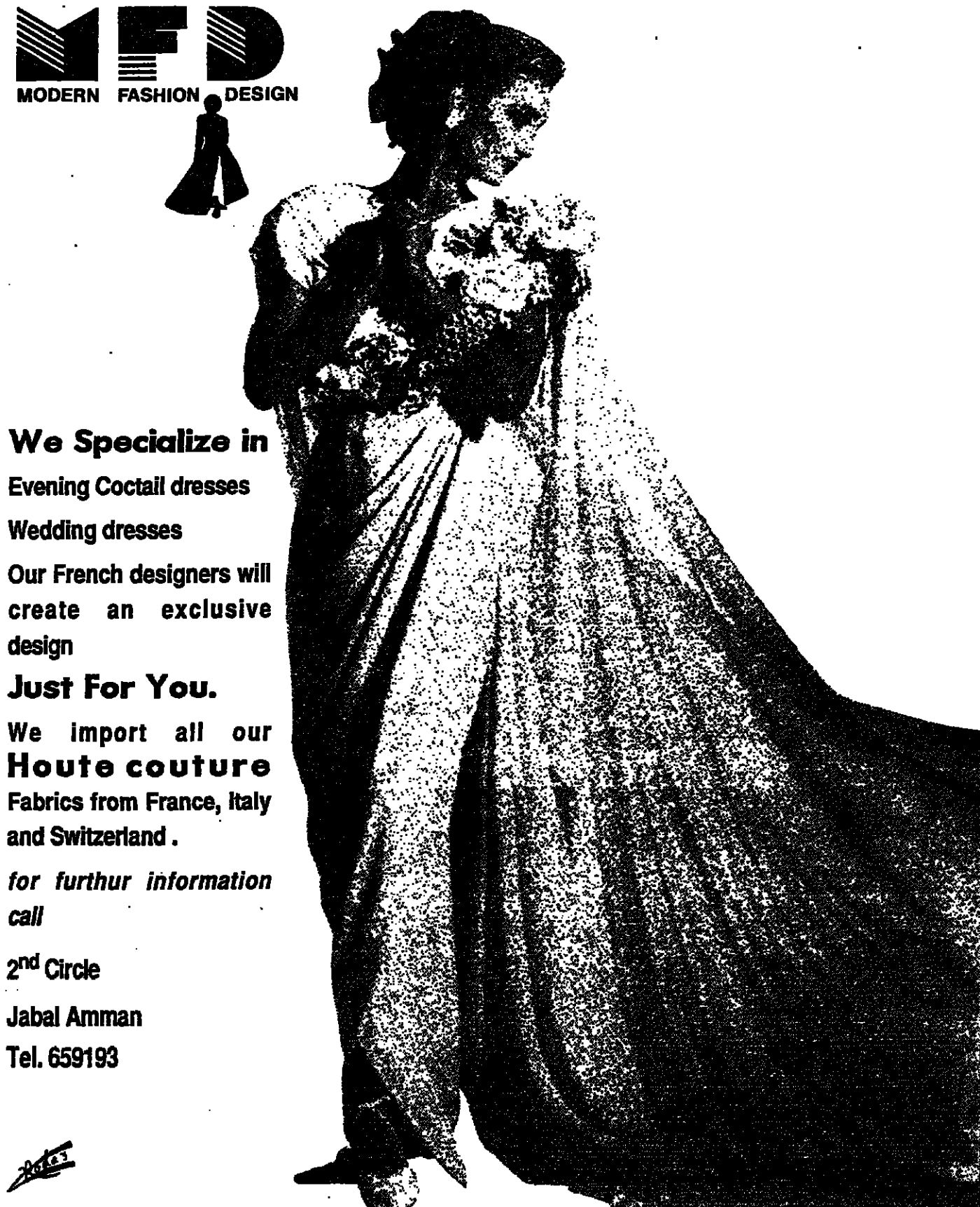
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## U.S., Japan remain world top borrowers

PARIS (AFP) — The United States and Japan remained the top two borrowers on world capital markets in the first four months of the year, but Germany and France overtook Britain to nearly catch up with Japanese borrowers, the OECD indicated Sunday.

U.S.-based borrowing rose to \$31.7 billion, from \$27.3 billion in the January-April period of 1992, while Japan raised \$21.9 billion, slightly down from a year-earlier level of \$22.6 billion, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a survey of financial market trends.

Germany's private and public sector borrowing shot up by 171 per cent year-on-year to \$19.8 billion in January-April, from a modest year-earlier \$7.3 billion. This equaled 70 per cent of total German 1992 borrowing.

France boosted its external market borrowing by 52 per cent to \$19.7 billion from \$13 billion in the same period of 1992. Its intake of just under \$20 billion during the first four months equaled almost half the \$42.5 billion raised abroad by French borrowers in 1992 as a whole.

Italy, at \$14.1 billion, also recorded a hefty percentage increase from the \$7.9 billion it borrowed in January-April 1992. Britain was the only major borrower to record a year-on-year decline, raising \$14.2 billion against \$19.3 billion in the first four months of last year.

The OECD ranking list of top 1992 borrowers put the Group of Seven countries in the lead: United States \$95 billion, Japan \$75.5 billion, Britain \$70.9 billion, France \$42.5 billion, Canada, \$30.2 billion, Germany \$28.4 billion and Italy \$15.1 billion.

## Study sees uncertainty in future oil market

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Growing world environmental concern is expected to create uncertainty in the oil market as it will make it more difficult to predict demand, according to a Gulf study.

But the study by Majid Al Munif of Saudi Arabia's King Saud University said it expected environmental protection measures by industrial nations to depress oil demand by around 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by the year 2000.

"Looking into the oil market prospects, we can see it is beset with uncertainty because of the surrounding challenges," said the study, which was presented to a regional economic symposium in Riyadh last week.

"The biggest challenge is the environmental issue, which is expected to affect the oil market directly or indirectly," it pointed out.

The European Community has cited environmental concerns for its proposal to impose a carbon

tax of \$3 of each imported barrel of oil, to rise gradually to \$10 by the year 2000. The United States, another major oil importer, also plans to impose a tax of \$3.5 to cut crude imports.

The proposals have drawn sharp criticism by oil producers, mainly Gulf states which argue the taxes would hit demand and depress their income.

Without such taxes, the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will produce 17 million b/d by the year 2000 and 22 million b/d by 2010, said the study.

"In case there is a change in demand, which is expected in the light of the energy taxes, then demand for OPEC oil will fall by 1.5 million b/d by the year 2000 and 2.2 million b/d by the year 2010. This will affect the expected production by the GCC countries," it said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and non-OPEC

Oman and Bahrain — currently produce around 13 million b/d or nearly one fifth of the total world crude output. Their reserves also account for around 40 per cent of the world's of about one trillion barrels.

Most of them have embarked on costly projects to boost their oil production capacity to meet a rise in demand for OPEC's oil, which has been forecast at between 34 million and 37 million b/d by the year 2000.

"Capacity expansion is another challenge facing the oil market as this depends on the ability to make accurate forecasts about demand, which is becoming complicated due to environmental restrictions," the study said.

"Such restrictions will slow down demand and it could further decline if more restrictions are imposed. A large surplus in capacity could negatively affect the oil market as was the case during the first half of 1980s," the study concluded.

## Portugal to link up with Algeria gas pipelines

ALGIERS (R) — Portugal is to buy 2.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from Algeria, rising later to five billion, official sources said Sunday.

The two countries will sign an agreement next Thursday in the Portuguese capital for the gas to be supplied through the pipeline now being built between North Africa and Spain.

The agreement follows the collapse of an accord for Portugal to buy 2.1 billion cubic metres a year of liquefied natural gas under a contract signed last year between Algeria's Sonatrach and a European consortium headed by Portugal's Natgas.

This was to have started flowing from 1997 via the port of Setubal, in southern Portugal. But the deal collapsed when the French partner in the consortium, Gaz de France, refused to sign the agreement, Algeria's official news agency APS said.

Portugal's Energy Minister Luis Mira Amiral said last month: "Supplies through the Maghreb pipeline are the most rapid and economic way of having natural gas in 1996."

Early this month, APS reported from Brussels that the European Commission had decided partly to finance a pipeline between Spain and Portugal.

Work started last month on the 2.5 billion pipeline to carry gas from Algeria's giant Hassi R'Mel via Morocco to Seville and Cordoba in Spain.

It is due to come on stream in 1995. In the first stage, the 1,370 kilometre pipeline will have an annual capacity of 10 billion cubic feet, eventually rising to 20 billion.

Last month, Abdul Hak Bouhafs, director-general of the state energy firm Sonatrach, said Algeria had almost certain commitments to sell an annual 57 billion to 58 billion cubic metres of gas out of a ceiling of 60 billion programmed for the year 2000.

## Ghana's reforms rewarded with boost in Western aid

PARIS (AFP) — Hailing Ghana's quiet political transition, Western donors indicated here they were prepared to boost aid to the West African country in 1993-94 to \$2.1 billion, about \$400 million more than initially expected.

The figure was announced as 11 donor countries and representatives of key international finance and development institutions wound up a two-day meeting in the World Bank-sponsored Consultative Group for Ghana.

The group congratulated Ghana for "the peaceful transition to democratic rule, based on parliamentary and presidential elections late last year," commending the country for its "success in implementing economic and political reforms."

Ghana remained "at the forefront of the reform movement in Africa," it said, referring to its ten-year-old economic recovery programme sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Ghana's Finance and Economic

Planning Minister Kwesi Botchwey, who headed the country's delegation to the meeting, echoed the IMF and Bank textbooks when he said the next phase of the government's economic programme included such as stabilising the private sector and speeding up privatisation of public enterprises.

Human resources development, local capacity-building and poverty alleviation were other key targets, but private sector development was a "top priority," he said.

Consultative Group members gave Ghana their wholehearted backing on this point and offered hardly any critical remarks, apart from stressing the need to improve Ghana's capacity to implement projects to make better use of aid money and make sure that benefits would be promptly passed on to the intended beneficiaries.

A statement issued by the World Bank on behalf of the

group said the donors "gave preliminary indications that their commitments in 1993 and 1994 would reach \$2.1 billion."

It said this would "significantly" exceed "the \$1.7 billion indicated by the (World) Bank as the minimum level needed to meet Ghana's import requirements over the two years."

The statement said the higher-than-projected aid estimates "will permit Ghana to rebuild its stock of international reserves, which were drawn last year in the face of shortfalls in external assistance and a decline in cocoa prices."

Donors represented at the meeting were Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. International institutions present included the African Development Bank, the Bretton Woods institutions and several United Nations agencies as well as the Kuwait Fund and the OPEC Fund for International Development.

## Foreign companies leaving S. Korea despite liberalisation

SEOUL (AFP) — Despite South Korea's much touted anti-corruption and liberalisation campaigns, foreign firms are pulling out at an ever faster pace, economists and businessmen say.

The number of foreign-invested firms leaving the country increased from 20 in 1988 to 52 last year, the Korea Economic Policy Institute (KEPI) said. Between 1982 and 1992, a total of 484 companies pulled out, taking about \$1.27 billion in investment with them.

Despite a net increase in foreign-invested firms here, many foreign businesses find the prevailing corruption, bureaucratic maze and declining competitiveness too much to handle.

A KEPI official said 234 firms with \$800 million in investment entered the Korean market last

year, down from 286 companies worth \$1.3 billion in 1991. There are currently 2,461 foreign-invested companies operating here.

Yu Chang-Hee, head of KEPI, said in a newspaper article that one of the reasons for the withdrawal is a longstanding anti-foreign streak running through Korean society which makes it hard for foreigners to conduct business.

Long known as the "Hermit Kingdom," Korea still prides itself on its homogeneous society and its tough-minded self-reliance in region dominated by the big powers of China, Russia and Japan.

Skyrocketing labour costs and frequent strikes, tight credit, strict policy on land ownership by foreigners and limits on retail

selling are also prompting foreigners to pull out, economists say.

On the wage front alone, the average salary has soared from 334,000 won a month in 1987 to 1,125,000 won last year, according to official figures.

Masao Nishimura, commercial attaché at the Japanese embassy, said another reason Japanese firms have led the rush in the past five years — 87 compared to 49 U.S. firms — was that Korean manufacturers were buying components from South East Asia.

Although the recently installed government of President Kim Young-Sam has launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign and will shortly announce the details of a five-year economic liberalisation plan, many foreign businessmen are skeptical.

## Opponents of Romanian-Greek shipping deal turn their guns on Iliescu

BUCHAREST (R) — Critics trying to scupper the multimillion-dollar sale of Romania's merchant fleet to Greek interests have turned their guns on President Ion Iliescu and demanded the punishment of senior reform officials.

President Iliescu defended the arrangement whereby the Piraeus-based Greek shipping group Forum Maritime S.A. would get a 51 per cent stake in Petromin S.A., Romania's largest shipping company, in a \$335 million deal.

The deal has spawned a growing political scandal, with national newspapers and some former cabinet ministers calling it an irresponsible act of betrayal and a rip-off.

The shockwaves buffeting President Iliescu's Democratic National Salvation Front minority left-wing government have struck as the cabinet looked vulnerable to attack from a new, broader opposition alliance formed in parliament last week.

"Is the president, too, an accomplice in the fleet's self-off?" asked a banner headline in the best-selling, independent daily newspaper Evenimentul Zilei.

"How President Iliescu closes his eyes," was one of the headlines in the independent daily Adevarul, which previously was sympathetic towards Mr. Iliescu and which has spearheaded the ferocious media assault against the Petromin share sale.

The barbs against Mr. Iliescu, a former top communist who took power in the December 1989 revolution, marked a new twist in the affair, which Adevarul described as "the deliberate wrecking of the Romanian fleet."

"With the connivance of government officials, a foreign company is getting control of Romania's strategic fleet for a pittance," commented Evenimentul Zilei.

Mr. Iliescu said the deal involved a joint venture and that the shipping company would still be registered and headquartered in Romania, that it would have Romanian employees and the contract therefore did not mean relinquishing the fleet to foreigners. He added that the deal was intended to save Petromin from bankruptcy.

The daily Curierul National asked whether the self-off was a case of "incompetence, corruption, sabotage or what?" and named key reform officials who it said should be brought to book.

It said Emilian Ijidelea, head of the Romanian Development Agency, a government body which promotes foreign investment, and the head of the Romanian Bank for Foreign Dan Pascariu should be punished for allowing the deal.

Nationalists hostile to foreign investment asked for the sacking of Reform Minister Misu Negritoiu. Adevarul questioned why

Transport Minister Paul Teodoru was still in office after allowing such an arrangement. Iliescu defended Teodoru saying he believed the minister was a "correct" man.

Adevarul has asked parliament to intervene and stop the deal, and Evenimentul Zilei quoted unidentified parliamentary sources as saying the contract was now likely to be cancelled.

Petromin Manager Nicolae Posedaru has said the firm hopes to get a cash injection of at least \$335 million from Forum Maritime under the arrangement.

Petromin has 106 vessels of about 4.6 million deadweight tonnes and holds the bulk of Romania's merchant fleet.

## Prague plans to keep control of Pilsner

PRAGUE (R) — The Czech government plans to retain control of the renowned Pilsner Urquell beer by merging two Pilsner-based breweries and then holding a managing interest, a Czech newspaper has reported. Under proposals adopted by a council of economic ministers, the state-run Pilsenske Prazdroj brewery, which produces Urquell, would be privatised and merged with Pilsenske Pivovary, a joint-stock company with a 67 per cent interest held by Czech investment funds, the daily Hospodarske Noviny reported. The government would retain an interest in the new company, which ministers referred to as "golden shares," allowing the state to intervene in major decisions.

The fate of Prazdroj has come under intense scrutiny since a senior agriculture ministry official said earlier this month that the company was on the verge of bankruptcy and was being run into the ground by current management.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 28, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Let your actions be above reproach now or you could lose prestige and the favour of higher-ups as the Scorpio Moon trines Saturn and the Sun. Show your strength of character, determination and honesty.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to push those personal plans you feel are so vital to your progress early and later steer clear of some tensions over money matters.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is the day for you to accept some restrictions you do not like and wait for a better time to handle it and later don't try to force others for what you want.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) An acquaintance can be a pain in the neck early in the day so sidestep this individual while in the evening you need to soothe a hurt attachment.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind of a worldly nature needs careful second thoughts to avoid making mistakes while later personal aims need study.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) New interests can be disappointing in the morning while tonight outside vocational interests require more than usual astuteness in handling.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You find business matters are

not easy to arrange as you wish while in the evening trying to understand something different than usual brings confusion.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Matters that come to light today can surprise and annoy you but do not make a hasty judgment while tonight its difficult to carry through with promises made.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Look into ways to improve whatever activities you engage in this morning, or tonight, some conditions come into the open requiring careful attention.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You require more effort to make a special attitude work to your satisfaction after while the same applies to tasks you have agreed to do.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Consider well matters beneath your own roof and how you can quietly make family members happier while later a congenial comrade is not so agreeable.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think how you can reconcile with a distraught correspondent and lighten a situation after which do nothing to disturb equanimity at your home.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your judgment is not good about money matters so postpone until a more propitious time while later information you get is not likely to be correct.

## THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

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## Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. BULL DOGGIE MERA  
2. ASIA OPERA BOAS  
3. STORMWELLSTITCH  
4. ANTIENNA BLUES  
5. MESS SUPPER  
6. REMOVED MILES  
7. USABLE MILES  
8. SPURTERGOSPTIC  
9. WYDLE RAGE GANTO  
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## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I didn't really clean the house. I just rearranged the clutter in a more attractive pattern."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INGAR	_____
FEACH	_____
LEMOTE	_____
ROCCEE	_____

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

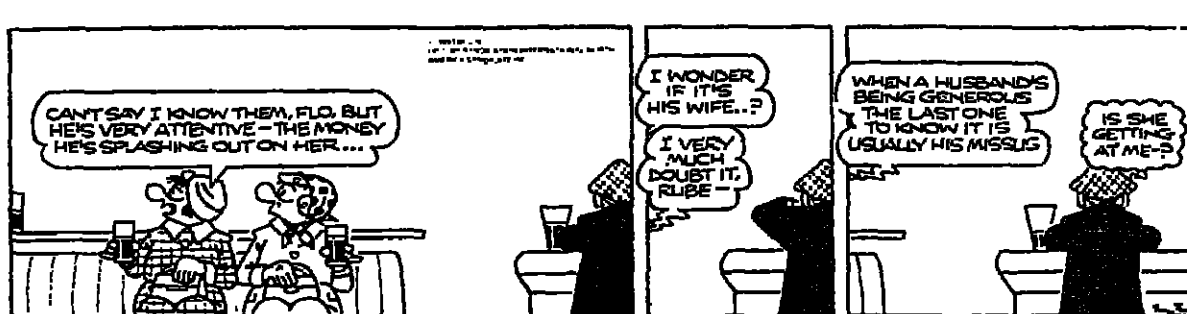
Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: OUTDO PATIO INVENT FINERY  
Answer: What the "chicken" loved on the fence

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff





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# Azeri rebels end insurrection

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijani rebels Sunday pledged allegiance to the country's new acting president, ending a month-long insurrection that triggered a political crisis, the Interfax News Agency said.

Under an agreement signed at Baku Sunday by rebel leader Surat Guseinov and the acting president, former Communist Party boss Geidar Aliyev, the renegade troops are to withdraw from positions near the capital city Baku.

Mr. Aliyev said he wanted "to end a confrontation that could lead to a civil war," Interfax said. The rebellion had forced President Abulfaz Elchibey to flee to his native region of the oil-rich former Soviet republic. Parliament Thursday stripped him of his powers and transferred them temporarily to Mr. Aliyev.

Col. Guseinov had been sacked in February as commander of Azerbaijani forces in the war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh after a series of military setbacks. He blamed Mr. Elchibey himself for his handling of the five-year-old war, and demanded the president's resignation.

The rebellion began early this month when Col. Guseinov's forces took over the country's second largest city, Gyandzha. The crisis deepened when government forces went in to try to disarm them, sparking clashes that left around 70 people dead.

Under Sunday's agreement, the renegade troops were re-incorporated into the army to help fight in Nagorno-Karabakh under a decree issued by the Defence Ministry, the Azerbaijani news agency Assa-Itada said.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a mainly Armenian enclave located inside Azerbaijan. The ethnic Armenian forces, which want to secede from Azerbaijan, now control most of the enclave after five years of fighting that has left several thousand people dead.

The agency said it was possible that Col. Guseinov might receive a post in the Defence or Interior Ministry, or even be named prime minister. Mr. Aliyev started reshuffling his government Saturday.

Mr. Aliyev tightened his control of the Azerbaijani government Saturday by firing three top officials loyal to President

Elchibey.

Several hundred Mr. Elchibey supporters gathered in central Baku, meanwhile, to demand that the president return from his mountain home, where he fled eight days ago when rebels advanced on the capital. Mr. Elchibey has refused to leave his southwestern village until rebel troops surrounding Baku withdraw.

On Saturday night, Mr. Aliyev fired Foreign Minister Tokif Gasimov; the head of state radio and television, Mehmet Ismail; and Arif Rahimadze, who was responsible for territorial policy.

State television, now under control of Aliyev loyalist Babek Huseynoglu, announced that money for refugees would be paid out, a move that would be very popular.

The 5-year-old war with Armenia over Azerbaijan's ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has turned hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis into refugees.

Failure to resolve the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh was one of the main reasons for a military

rebellion that began in eastern Azerbaijan earlier this month and touched off the country's current political crisis.

Meanwhile Armenian authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh said Sunday they had repelled a major Azerbaijani offensive against the disputed enclave after several hours of heavy fighting.

The Armenian News Agency, Snark, quoted these authorities, from the enclave's Information Department, as also saying that an undisclosed number of civilians had been killed on wounded Sunday in artillery shelling of Stepanakert, the enclave's main city.

The shells were fired from Agdam, the Azerbaijani town that serves as headquarters for the republic's military forces in the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, the agency said.

The military high command of Nagorno-Karabakh had said Saturday the Azerbaijanis launched a major offensive with ground forces backed by warplanes.

Authorities in Azerbaijan denied there was any such offensive.

## Central Bosnia sliding into all-out war — general

SARAJEVO (R) — The combined Muslim forces said Sunday that central Bosnia was sliding into "general confrontation" in fighting with Croat and Serbs and the urged U.N. peacekeepers to enforce a two-week ceasefire.

Sarajevo Radio reported General Rasim Delic as saying that the Croat Defence Forces (HVO) had mounted an offensive around Muslim areas in Zavidovici, Teslic, Maglaj and Kiseljak. He said an attack on Zavidovici by Croat and Serb forces on the weekend was in breach of a ceasefire agreed by all sides earlier this month.

Croatian radio quoted the HVO as blaming the Muslim army for the clashes.

Sarajevo Radio said dozens

were killed and wounded by combined Serb and Croat shelling in Maglaj and nearby villages about 80 kilometres north of the capital, but the report could not be confirmed independently.

Maglaj's authorities appealed for the Bosnian leadership to suspend talks on the republic's future until the attacks stopped and they also appealed for U.N. intervention.

The radio said many people had also been killed in an artillery attack on Zepce and in Zavidovici.

It accused Serb forces of reinforcing frontlines around the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde and the northern town of Tuzla in preparation for an offensive expected to start Monday.

Monday is the anniversary of the 1389 Battle of Kosovo, an historical landmark for Serb nationalists in which Christian Serb forces were defeated by the advancing Ottoman Turks.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Pepe Gallegos said U.N. military observers had been refused access to Maglaj by Croat troops and he reported sporadic fighting in nearby villages.

Mr. Gallegos said Zepce, which was described as having been in flames Saturday, was apparently under Croat control — and that it was normally populated by Croats and had an HVO force.

Croat and Muslim-led government forces clashed with mortar, artillery and small arms fire in a village outside the central town of

Gornji Vakuf, Maj. Gallegos said.

Meanwhile EC mediator Lord Owen has hit out at Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for refusing to compromise to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview with the French Sunday paper here Le Journal Du Dimanche he accused Sarajevo authorities of not wanting peace.

Lord Owen said of Mr. Izetbegovic: "He is simply not prepared to make the necessary compromise to save his people. I don't want to see him moved aside, but we can't reach an agreement as long as there is no desire for peace in Sarajevo."

He said a partition plan for war-torn Bosnia had only a "slight chance" of being accepted by the Bosnian Muslims.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 3 dead as typhoon sinks Singapore ship

HONG KONG (AFP) — The British captain of a Singapore-flagged cargo ship and two of his crew died when the year's first typhoon over the South China Sea sank their large vessel and wrecked havoc on Hong Kong. The Lian Gang sank in stormy waters 65 nautical miles south-east of Hong Kong as typhoon Koryn, packing gale-force winds, headed for the coast of mainland China, marine rescue officers said. One crewman was still missing at nightfall, after helicopters plucked 24 survivors out of thrashing ocean and struggled against the clock to recover another 10 from a dinghy, they said. "The weather is pretty bad out there," Gabriel Tong, spokesman for the Hong Kong Marine Department's Search and Rescue Section, said. Late in the day a small Russian cargo ship, the Lara Mikhneko, carrying metal products, radioed that it was rolling in high seas 123 nautical miles southwest of Hong Kong, directly in the path of the storm. Other ships in the area were asked to go to its assistance. Mr. Tong said, Typhoon Koryn earlier killed four people and caused widespread flooding and damage on the main Philippine island of Luzon.

### IRA sniper kills soldier

BELFAST (AP) — The IRA claimed responsibility for the fatal shooting Saturday of a British soldier on patrol near the border with the Irish Republic. A sniper fired from troops patrolling an isolated road at Belleek, a few kilometres from the border town of Crossmaglen, said a police spokesman, who spoke anonymously. The victim was not immediately named. In calls to local media, callers saying they represented the Irish Republican Army (IRA) said the outlawed group was responsible. The IRA has targeted troops and former service personnel in its military campaign to end British rule in the province. Some 20 people were injured Saturday when a hand grenade meant for the police exploded prematurely amongst marchers in a Protestant parade in Belfast, police said. The grenade went off a police re-routed the 1,000-strong parade away from a Catholic neighbourhood because of fears it might spark a confrontation with Republicans.

### Nepal police shoot dead rioters

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Police said Sunday that they had shot dead five people in three days of anti-government unrest as crowds continued to roam the streets here. At least 77 people were arrested for defying an overnight curfew, police said. Police source confirmed that five people had been shot dead and 15 injured when police opened fire on rioters during day-long disturbance Saturday which followed a dawn-to-dusk strike called by Communists Friday. The government had earlier reported three deaths. More than 40 people have been injured and 150 arrested since the trouble started Friday and protesters gathered again early Sunday to denounce the government and police for their handling of the unrest.

### Seoul: No more talks with N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's foreign minister said Sunday that Seoul would not make any more proposals to hold talks with the North if there is no breakthrough in talks with the United States next month, news reports said. "The (Seoul) government will not make proposals to Pyongyang any more as the North has put a halt to dialogue between South and North Korea," Minister Han Sung-Joo was quoted by the domestic Yonhap News Agency as saying. He said if there was no breakthrough in the nuclear talks between the United States and North Korea slated for July, it would be meaningless for South Korea to pursue talks with the North. "The North Korea-U.S. high level talks next month will focus on the North's acceptance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection," Mr. Han said. "Washington will not persuade North Korea to return to inter-Korean dialogue at the talks." The two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War, have haggled since late May over the timing and terms of a meeting.

### 20 killed in Somali clan warfare

NAIROBI (R) — Eleven ethnic Somalis, including eight women, were shot and killed in a clan fighting near Wajir in northeast Kenya, Kenyan officials said. Friday's killings bring to 20 the number of deaths in two weeks in what officials say is a feud between two Somali clans. Reports from the area, received in Nairobi Sunday, said the 11 people killed were all members of one family, who were attacked on a farm 40 kilometres from Wajir. Members of parliament from the area held a meeting with members of the rival clans in Wajir Saturday in a bid to end the feud.

## Yeltsin's liberal allies put pressure on Khasbulatov

MOSCOW (R) — Parliamentary allies of President Boris Yeltsin attacked his rival Raul Khasbulatov Sunday while the Kremlin leader claimed progress towards his goal of a new Russian constitution to strengthen his powers.

More than 50 liberal deputies issued a statement of no confidence in parliamentary Chairman Khasbulatov, accusing him of running the legislature in the authoritarian tradition of Communist leaders Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin.

"Attempts by people's deputies to simply express their own opinion are suppressed in the best traditions of the father of the peoples," the statement, published by ITAR-TASS News Agency, said.

"We call on all people's deputies in Russia to express no confidence in the current parliamentary leadership for the sake of creating true parliamentarism in Russia, maintaining stability in the country and preserving the very Russian state."

Mr. Khasbulatov has used his authority as head of the standing parliament and Congress of People's Deputies to denounce Mr. Yeltsin's radical reform programme and condemn his proposed new constitution as a blueprint for dictatorship.

The president sees the basic law, which would boost his own powers at parliament's expense, as a way to halt the spiral of confrontation with Congress and smash resistance to reforms.

On Saturday Mr. Yeltsin told his Constitutional Assembly, which groups government leaders, deputies, leaders of Russia's 88 regions and republics, businessmen and others, that a single draft of the new constitution

had been worked out.

But he conceded that differences remained and the assembly, initially supposed to wind up by June 16, would have to hold another meeting. No date for this was set.

The conservative-dominated parliament had challenged Mr. Yeltsin on the eve of Saturday's meeting by formally withdrawing its members, including Mr. Khasbulatov, from the assembly.

It demanded that Mr. Yeltsin sack First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko and media aide Mikhail Poltorak. 13 after-prosecutors investigating corruption allegations found evidence that both men had "exceeded their authority."

Mr. Yeltsin retorted that parliament was trying to sabotage his constitutional plans and trigger a government crisis.

He could draw satisfaction from the fact that some deputies ignored parliament's decision and attended Saturday's session. So did representatives of the oil-rich and independent-minded republic of Tatarstan, which had threatened to boycott it.

But the debate highlighted a long-running dispute between Russia's ethnic republics and administrative regions over their respective powers.

Mr. Yeltsin and his aides say they have struck a delicate balance in the constitutional draft defining the 20 ethnic republics as "sovereign states" within Russia while regions are "state-territorial formations."

There are two trains now — that of the republics and that of the regions — and they move on collision courses," said Valery Novikov, head of the Krasnoyarsk Regional Parliament in Siberia.

## Pakistan premier, president meet to discuss crisis

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan here Sunday in a bid to solve the country's political crisis, official sources said.

It was the first meeting between the two men since the president dissolved the National Assembly and sacked Mr. Sharif on April 18, moves which were later reversed by the country's Supreme Court.

There was no immediate comment from either side on the talks.

In a verdict on May 26, the court declared the presidential orders illegal and reinstated Mr. Sharif's cabinet and the assembly.

Mr. Ishaq Khan bowed to the court decision but within days governors appointed by him dissolved the assemblies in two provinces, rekindling the crisis.

Troubled by what he called gross violations of the constitu-

tion by hostile provincial governments. Mr. Sharif has blamed the president for the dissolution of the assemblies in Punjab and North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

The high courts in the two provinces are currently hearing petitions against the dissolution, while bitterness prevails in relations between the federal and the provincial governments.

Meanwhile the main opposition groups, including former Premier Benazir Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), renewed a call for the dissolution of all assemblies and fresh elections to end the crisis.

Mr. Sharif has rejected demands for mid-term elections, saying the "spontaneous" reaction of the people against the president's action and the "historic" judicial verdict represented a new mandate for his government.



Tsutomu Hata (right), representative of the New Birth Party, and Chairman of the Social Democratic Party Sadao Yamahana Sunday attend a press conference after talks by five opposition leaders on cooperation in the upcoming July 18 elections and the possibility of a coalition government (AFP photo)

## Coalition talks in the wings as Tokyo votes

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo voted Sunday for a new city assembly, a key test of Japanese voter sentiment ahead of July 18 general elections that could sweep the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from power.

There was a very low turnout early on despite fine, sunny weather and the exceptional political hype surrounding this year's polls.

At noon, 21.5 per cent of those eligible had voted, compared with 25.6 per cent at the same time in the last assembly elections in 1989 — another year when national polls were in the offing.

Meanwhile, the LDP's most prominent defector, former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, held talks with leaders of the established opposition parties on the possibility of forging common policy positions ahead of national elections.

Apart from Mr. Hata, who last week founded the Shinseitō (New Birth Party), the meeting was attended by the heads of four parties who say they are ready to join an anti-LDP coalition government.

They comprise the traditional non-Communist opposition — the Socialists, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation.

Two other LDP rebels who recently formed their own groups — Morihiro Hosokawa of the Japan New Party (JNP) and Masayoshi Takemura of Shinto Sakigake (New Harbinger Party) — declined Mr. Hata's invitation to take part.

Kyodo News Agency said the party leaders agreed it would be difficult to reach immediate agreement on forming a coalition and settled for reaffirming their

solidarity. Kyodo said the three points they could agree upon were to cooperate in the coming general election, although just how was not spelled out to implement sweeping political reforms afterwards and to continue basic LDP policy on defence, foreign affairs and other issues.

The idea of following the policies of the conservative LDP is stirring trouble within the Socialist Party, whose official platform still commits it to such hard-left policies as unconditional support for Stalinist North Korea and abolition of the Japanese military.

The party leadership's evident desire to end a 45-year spell in opposition is putting severe strains on party unity, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun said Sunday.

Meanwhile, Shinseitō leaders have urged moderate Socialists to join a coalition.

Mr. Hata's powerful co-conspirator and co-leader of Shinseitō, former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, stressed this point in an interview Sunday.

"We must hold broadly similar policies on major government matters if we are to form a coalition," Kyodo quoted him as saying.

"We must not think only of counting heads, an act which would make ourselves open to accusations of forming an 'illicit union,'" he said.

LDP leaders have accused the Hata-Ozawa party of seeking to make such a union or common-law marriage with incompatible opposition partners, uniting only in their hatred for the long-time ruling party.

"We will not form an 'illicit union,' nor will we join hands with the LDP because that would not solve anything," Mr. Ozawa said.

## Sceptical Nigerians told to prepare for new poll

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military ruler Ibrahim Babangida Saturday ordered a fresh attempt to elect a president but a top politician said every would be candidate could be barred from the process on technicalities.

It is the latest twist in a series of events that has plunged Africa's most populous nation into political crisis and increased public scepticism of the army's civil rule programme.

Gen. Babangida, who seized power in a 1983 coup, annulled the results of the June 12 election but has said the army will install an elected president and government on Aug. 27, on schedule.

"We are committed to handing over power Aug. 27, 1993," he said.

Gen. Babangida said his National Defence and Security Council had called for a process to be put in place by the end of July for one candidate from each of the two army-created parties to emerge.

Politicians previously banned from taking part in the civilian rule process would be allowed to join in, he added.

This appeared to reopen the way for 23 hopefuls — including strongmen from the 1960-66 and 1979-83 republics ousted by the army — banned after two rounds of fraudulent primaries last year.

But the army's new conditions for eligibility, which eliminated the two candidates in the aborted June 12 poll, include membership of one of the parties for at least one year.

"There is no one in Nigeria who has been a member of any of the parties for one year," Babu Gana Kingibe, running mate to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of the first poll, told Reuters.

"After last August's primaries were cancelled, the party registration was also cancelled,

There was a fresh registration of members. We all registered in September," said Mr. Kingibe, a former chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Mr. Kingibe said Mr. Abiola, who claimed victory on official returns from 14 of Nigeria's 30 states and undared nationwide results, had not been an SDP member before September.

Mr. Abiola's sole rival, fellow millionaire Muslim businessman Bashir Tofa, 45, was also ruled out by not being at least 50 years old, as stipulated by the military.

Mr. Abiola, from the mainly Christian south, last week condemned the poll cancellation, alleging it was part of a ploy by a small clique to cling to power.

The SDP accused Mr. Tofa, from the largely Muslim north, which had provided most of Nigeria's leaders since independence in 1960, of siding with anti-democratic forces.

The age limit and lifting of bans should allow wealthy political heavyweights, such as retired Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'adua, Adamu Ciroma and Umaru Shinkafi, to return.

"The military is toying with us. There is nothing we can do except sit and watch. This is a very painful thing," Chikodi Sidney, a Lagos technician, said after Gen. Babangida's speech.

A Lagos-based diplomat said: "It all looks messy. The new system is technically possible but I don't think everyone will buy it, especially after a candidate clearly won the election."

Britain, the nation's former colonial rulers, imposed limited military sanctions after the poll was cancelled.

The United States, which takes nearly half of Nigeria's daily oil output of 1.85 million barrels, said it was reassessing its relations with the West African country.

## De Klerk under pressure; AWB thumbs nose

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Pressure is mounting on President F.W. De Klerk to act against white right-wing extremists whose armed siege of democracy talks fuelled fresh charges that he is losing control of South Africa.

By Sunday morning, 48 hours after hundreds of armed white nationalists battered their way into the negotiations centre outside Johannesburg, police had yet to make any arrests.

They said their probe was going slowly because suspects had given them false names, an explanation African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela dismissed as ridiculous.

Mr. Mandela, speaking before leaving on a trip to Egypt and the United States Saturday night, said Law and Order Minister Hermus Kriel had telephoned him with a progress report.

"I said to him 'well you don't need to identify Constant Viljoen, Terre Blanche and Ferdi Hartzenberg...they were there, your policemen were there,'" Mr. Mandela said, adding that he had little hope for early arrests.

Mr. Eugene Terre Blanche, leader of the paramilitary Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), was at the head of the mob of right-wingers who invaded the democracy talks venue Friday behind an armoured vehicle that punched a hole in the building's plate-glass facade.

General Viljoen, a former defence force chief, is coordinator of a right-wing umbrella group linking the AWB with Hartzenberg's pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP).

Mr. De Klerk also left on a trip abroad Saturday night, but without speaking to journalists. He had promised Friday that the first arrests would be made by Saturday.

Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela are due to jointly receive the U.S. Liberty Medal from President Bill Clinton in Philadelphia on July 4.

Asked if he was still willing to join Mr. De Klerk in receiving the award after the events of Friday, Mr. Mandela said: "That is not going to change my attitude, but of course I hope to brief the African public on the significance of what happened..."

"It is clear that either the government has lost control of the security forces, or the security forces are doing what the government wants them to do. There is clearly connivance between the right wing inside Mr. De Klerk's party and the ultra-right like the AWB and the CP."

Johannesburg's Sunday Times said the police failure to stop the AWB assault was a "spectacular display of incompetence" and Police Commissioner Johan Van Der Merwe should be sacked.

The Sunday Tribune urged Mr. De Klerk to punish the right-wingers. "Anything short of that will confirm growing suggestions that the government is indeed a lame duck."

The Sunday Star added: "The pathetic police helplessness in the face of the mobby invaders is surely a reflection of the indecision that paralyses the government these days."

Political analysts said the right wing would grow increasingly dangerous as prospects faded of it being able to negotiate an independent white state in a post-apartheid South Africa.

They said Gen. Viljoen had strong support in the security forces and was capable of mobilising well-organised resistance among whites opposed to looming black majority rule. South Africa's first all-race election is expected in April next year.

The ANC has called for a day of mass demonstrations Thursday to protest at the right-wing raid and affirm support for the democracy negotiations.

An ANC source said ANC headquarters in Johannesburg had been evacuated Friday after reports the right-wing mob had chosen the building as its next target. The attack did not materialise.

Police issued photographs Sunday of four AWB members who they said had played a leading role in Friday's raid and appealed for information on their identities. One is an English immigrant who serves as a Terre Blanche bodyguard.

A spokesman for the AWB at their headquarters in the Western Transvaal town of Ventersdorp laughed when asked about the pictures. "No, they're not hiding. They're around. But it seems the police can't find them."

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Sunday the fears of white South Africans could be "terribly destructive" and should be taken seriously.

## 'Most Japanese teenagers read porn comics'

TOKYO (R) — More than 60 per cent of Japanese teenagers have read pornographic comics, according to a government survey, while almost half their parents said the situation could not be helped. A management and Coordination Agency study released over the weekend showed that 61 per cent of junior and senior high school pupils said that they had read such comics at least once. A breakdown showed the highest percentage of teenage readers — 87 per cent — was among high school boys aged 16 to 18. A total of 2,200 teenagers responded to the survey, taken late last year. While 48 per cent of parents said they saw the situation as unavoidable, only about 20 per cent said they regarded reading pornographic comics as a serious problem. Boys and girls reacted differently after reading the comic, however. While many boys said they wanted to read more, many girls said they were sickened by what they saw and did not want to try again. Many pornographic comics are published in Japan and are easily available in book stores and corner grocery shops. Even comics that target teenagers are full of explicit sexual scenes.

## Japan police nab record 450 kg of marijuana

TOKYO (R) — Japanese authorities have seized a record 450 kilograms of marijuana, arrested a 61-year-old Japanese man and tried to bring it in by ship from Singapore, a police spokesman said. Shiro Horii of Osaka is accused of attempting to smuggle the marijuana, with an estimated street value of 2.25 billion yen (\$21 million), into Japan in early April. Mr. Horii, who was formally arrested, hid "the drug among wooden cargo pallets," the spokesman said. The amount seized is about double the total amount of marijuana confiscated last year, he said.

## 239-year-old violin vanishes from airport

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — A 239-year-old Italian violin shipped from Germany has disappeared from a cargo dock near San Francisco International Airport. Leon Igudesman, a violinist with the San Francisco Opera, said he bought the instrument for telephone for \$34,000 during an auction in Cologne last month and had it shipped here on Lufthansa Airlines. He said the violin was not at the airport's high-security cargo dock when he tried to pick it up a week ago. The violin was made in 1754 by Michael Deaconete of Venet and had been shipped as cargo with no request for special handling. "We tore up our warehouse up and down. The piece is not here," said Frank Currel, a Lufthansa manager. "Someone apparently has helped himself."

## Toy train sets 1st world record

SINSHEIM, Germany (AP) — Here's a little engine that could, and then some. A souped-up model locomotive zipped down a track at 44.6 kph (27.6 mph) during a speed competition for toy trains. Organisers of the Choo-Choo Showdown said the locomotive was zoomed into the Guinness Book of World Records. No one knows whether other toy trains have traveled faster, because it was the first time one was officially clocked. The locomotive — built and owned by the German toymaker Maerklin — carries its own high-powered electric racing motor, is about a half-metre long and 10 centimetres high. No cars are attached. One hot rod locomotive met a tragic end, running into a wall when parachutes meant to brake it failed to open. The toy train drag race took place on a specially built track at the Transportation and Technology Museum in the south German town of Sinsheim, near Heidelberg.

## Fake passport racket cracked in Australia

CANBERRA (AFP) — Immigration Department officials and federal police have cracked a racket in which illegal migrants here have been lured by false promises of Australian citizenship, government sources said. Immigration Minister Nick Bollock said investigations by his department and other government agencies had so far revealed 63 passport applications as being suspect among 300,000 applications, and investigations were continuing. His comment followed reports Sunday of a major crackdown by authorities which is said to have triggered panic among thousands of illegal migrants and people who have overstayed their tourist visas.



## Third time unlucky for Ivanisevic, Chang

LONDON (AFP) — It was third time unlucky for both Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Chang Saturday as the two seeds went crashing out of the Wimbledon championships.

Both men had battled bravely through gruelling five set encounters in their first two rounds but the mental bruising accumulated on the way proved their undoing Saturday.

Chang's defeat to David Wheaton after more than four hours of heroic resistance was perhaps unsurprising. The 13th seed had only beaten Wheaton once in six previous encounters. But the exit of the powerful Croat who came so close to beating Andre Agassi in last year's final at the hands of American Todd Martin ranks as a major upset.

When he got to the final set for the third time in five days, Ivanisevic just seemed to run out of ammunition.

Martin, a giant 22-year-old who even towers above Ivanisevic, took full advantage to clinch his best ever win 2-6, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0.

The fifth seed produced his normal quota of aces. He fired down 23 but it was 15 double faults and a series of uncharacteristic errors at the net that cost him the match against an opponent ranked 30 in the world.

Ivanisevic, who received a warning for racket abuse, took the defeat badly. He stormed out of the ground refusing to speak to the press and was fined a total of \$2,500 for that and the on-court warning.

Meanwhile, the writing seemed to be on the wall for Chang as he trailed by two sets to love with Wheaton playing some of the superb grass court tennis he is capable of.

But Chang simply refused to die and his determination to force the match into a fifth set produced an epic battle that Wheaton finally won 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 after four hours and 22 minutes on court.

"He's so mentally strong, I never counted him out," Wheaton said of his opponent. "In that fourth set no matter what I did the ball was coming back at my feet at 200 mph."

Chang was philosophical about defeat. "A few points here and there it could have been my match. I'm quite happy."

Wheaton now takes on Martin in a battle of the giant-killers.

Stefan Edberg's status as Wimbledon favourite took a battering as the Swede had his feared service broken six times by a player ranked 143 in the world.

Against any serious opposition, Edberg's erratic form would probably have cost him the match but Britain's Chris Wilkinson lacked the experience to capitalise on the second seed's mistakes and Edberg moved into the last 16 with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

The lack of form did not seem to greatly perturb the laid-back Edberg, who plays Richard Matsuzaki for a place in the quarter-finals.

Australia's Wally Masur, playing better than ever after turning 30 last week, avenged his loss to France's Arnaud Boesche in the final at Rosmalen, the Netherlands, in the run-up to Wimbledon.

Masur, who lost to Boris Becker in the fourth round last year, earned himself a crack at France's Cedric Pioline with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4 win.

"I'm more relieved than anything," Masur admitted. "I had chances to win it early and I played bad tiebreakers but I put



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic hits a backhand to his opponent (AFP photo)

led it back in the fifth."

Pioline maintained French hopes along with Henri Leconte with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, win over Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

Jim Courier showed once again that if he has a talent for anything it is for concentration and hard work as he overcame Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

The Australian, who was ranked number one in the world as a junior, wasted seven chances to clinch the second set.

The American, now has a serious test against South Africa's Wayne Ferreira who beat Sweden's Henrik Holm 6-4, 6-3, 7-6.

Garrison means double trouble for Fernandez

Mary Joe Fernandez became

the first major casualty in the women's singles at the Wimbledon championships when she crashed out to her doubles partner Zina Garrison Jackson Saturday.

Garrison Jackson, a finalist here in 1990, was close to quitting last year after allowing herself to get out of condition.

But all the work she has done to revive her flagging career paid off on the centre court as she raced to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over the fifth seed.

Her attacking style is ideally suited to the Wimbledon lawns but she was also helped by a series of incredible errors from Fernandez, who seemed to be heading higher after reaching the French Open final and stretching Steffi Graf to three sets.

"I was just one of those days

for Mary Joe," Garrison Jackson said. "She never really got a groove like she normally does."

Fernandez though paid tribute to the form of her friend. "I missed a couple of game points in the first two games and then she just got on a roll. Luckily I was able to hang on at the end and get just one game."

"If I am going to lose to anyone I don't mind losing to Zina."

"Since the beginning of the year she's been working really hard and it is paying off."

The winner herself admitted: "I got to a point last year when I wasn't interested in playing because I knew all the work it would take to get back in shape. I had become unprofessional."

"The thought of retirement was definitely running through my mind."

Through working with Bobby Kisee on her fitness, the American managed to turn her career around but, now 29, she still plans to quit in a couple of years.

"I want to have kids and my husband it not the kind of man that's going to walk around holding the baby."

Garrison Jackson now plays the equally revitalised Natalia Zvereva, who beat 12th seed Katerina Maleeva in the first round, and came through her third round match in straight sets against Belgium's Sabine Appelmans.

Fernandez was the only seed to fall as Martina Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini and Jana Novotna all came through.

Sabatini had a tough battle to beat Natalia Medvedeva 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, while Navratilova continued her progression towards a 12th Wimbledon final appearance when she overwhelmed Patricia Hy.

Unlike Steffi Graf who regretted not having a tougher workout when she sailed through her third round match 6-0, 6-0, Navratilova was happy to take it easy in the early rounds.

"I had some tough matches in Eastbourne last week. I don't need tough match play."

Navratilova now plays 16th seed Nathalie Tauziat for a place in the quarter finals.

## Gunwell, Privalova star in European Cup

ROME (AFP) — Britain's 400m hurdler Sally Gunwell and Russian sprinter Irina Privalova clocked best times in the world this year in the European Cup Saturday.

France head the men's standings and Russia the women before Sunday's final day, but it was the 53.73sec of Olympic champion Gunwell and the 11.08sec 100m time of Privalova which gave Europe something to shout about.

Though the recent U.S. trials had some astonishing performances, particularly in the sprints, Europe managed to outshine them in these events.

Britain's David Grindley won the 400m in a Cup record time of 44.75 on his debut, despite running in the outside lane. It was also the best time in Europe for the distance.

And team-mate Linford Christie took the 100m — for the fourth time in succession — ahead of Russian Alexandr Prokhomovskiy.

The time of 10.22 for Olympic champion Christie looks

mediocre compared with the two wind-assisted 9.79sec runs by U.S. trials winner Andre Cason. But Christie said: "Give me a 4.5-metre wind behind me and see what I can do. I'm not worried about times at this stage of the season. I will only be concerned if someone like the Russian gets that close in August."

Britain's men believed they were robbed first place as a political play in the 1991 event when incidents in both relays went the Soviet Union's way, qualifying them for the World Cup in Cuba.

Britain finished a disappointing fifth at the end of the first day. France's men, whose best ever finish has been fifth, finished level first on 64 points with Italy

at the end of the first day.

But thanks to two victories, by 400m hurdler Stephane Diagana and Thierry Pantel in the 10,000m — to Italy's one, they grabbed top spot.

Diagana dominated his event to win in 48.08sec, a new French record and the second best time in the world this year behind Olympic champion Kevin Young of the USA.

Pantel got the better of Italian Panetta and streaked ahead of him with four laps to go.

In the women's event, Russia are head and shoulders above the rest with 76 points and five victories. Second-placed Romania, with three victories, are way back on 53 points.

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## Holyfield victory fails to impress

ATLANTIC CITY (Agencies) — Evander Holyfield came out of retirement to beat Alex Stewart Saturday on a unanimous decision that likely earned him a rematch against heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe.

But Holyfield, who lost the undisputed title to Bowe last November and then retired, did not impress many people with his performance against a listless Stewart.

Holyfield, who opened up a cut over Stewart's left eye in the third round, used his jab much more than he has in the past and followed up with combinations that easily tattooed Stewart. There were no knockdowns in the 12-round bout.

But Holyfield, who had vowed to box more than he has in the past, did not move much laterally. Against a better fighter he would have been a fairly easy target. Holyfield also showed signs that he still would make the mistake of trying to slug it out with bigger stronger men.

Lucky for him he fought Stewart, who looked like he wanted to be sitting on the beach, which was only a few yards (metres) from the Atlantic City Convention Centre, where about 10,000 fans broke out in boos several times in the 12-round fight.

There appears to be a good chance that Holyfield, 30, will fight Bowe in November for the heavyweight crown. Lennox Lewis is the other world

heavyweight champion.

"He's a game fighter," Holyfield said of Stewart after the fight. "He's tough to get out."

Holyfield's record is now 29-1 and Stewart, who will be 29 Monday, dropped to 32-5.

In an earlier fight, John John Molina of Puerto Rico retained his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title with a unanimous decision after 12 rounds over Manuel Medina of Mexico.

Also on the card was a crowd-pleasing bout, ending with American Vinnie Pazienza — a former IBF lightweight and World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion — stopping Briton Lloyd Honeyghan, a former undisputed welterweight champion, in the 10th round.

Honeyghan, 33, was gunned by Pazienza's unrelenting attack and superior punching power in the middleweight fight.

The fight ended when Honeyghan's manager-trainer Mickey Duff threw in the towel just seconds before New Jersey State Athletic Commission chairman Larry Hazzard, perched on the ring apron, jumped into the ring to end the fight.

Honeyghan had been battered by Pazienza in the ninth round and it appeared on a matter of time before either the officials or Pazienza would end the fight.

Pazienza, broke his neck in an automobile accident in November 1991 and was told he would never fight again. But "the

Pazmanian devil" returned last December and is now in line for a title fight later this year.

Bewn ready for revenge against Eubank

Nigel Bewn is ready to exact revenge on arch rival Chris Eubank in the world super-middleweight showdown in October after his demolition of Lou Gent Saturday night.

The World Boxing Council champion promised no repeat of the errors he made against Eubank three years ago when they clash again on October 9, probably at Manchester United's ground.

"Eubank could not live with my power," growled Bewn. "Now the Gent fight is out of the way, I just want to kick his backside."

"Last time he prepared for me and I didn't prepare for him. This time I'll not be making the same mistakes."

"I've learned a lot about my body since I fought Eubank the first time. My defence is better. I was well-prepared for Gent and the same will apply for Eubank."

"I've shown I can do the business. I've done everything" my trainer Jimmy Tibbs has asked. The only thing he tells me to do sometimes is to slow down."

"I've got all my power and strength back after recovering from the trapped nerve in my shoulder which bothered me for three fights."

## Copa America

## Colombia, Ecuador reach semi-finals

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AFP) — Colombia's display of champagne football Saturday earned them a place with Ecuador in the semi-finals of the Copa America.

Now it is up to Brazil and Argentina in the third quarter-final, and Peru and Mexico in the final tie, to fight it out for the last two places at the climax of the South American soccer championships.

Hosts Ecuador were first through when they saw off Paraguay 3-0 in an explosive match at Quito, which saw one player sent off and six booked.

But that drama was outstripped in the second match, as Colombia, playing attractive attacking football, beat an efficient Uruguay side 5-3 on penalties after a thrilling 1-1 draw.

Colombia looked to be heading towards defeat after going down 1-0 to a 68th minute Marcelo Saralegui strike but defender Luis Perea equalized with a powerful cross-shot with just two minutes to go.

That meant penalties and the match was settled when Uruguay substitute Eber Moas saw his effort crash against the base of the right post.

There was a final twist, however, when Adolfo Valencia was ordered to retake the final penalty after hesitating in his run-up and dummifying the goalkeeper.

But Valencia kept his cool to put Colombia through with the retake.

The 45,000 fans who watched the Ecuador-Paraguay clash certainly got their share of drama as well, including a missed penalty, an own goal, a red card and six bookings.

Eduardo Hurtado put the home team ahead after 34 minutes after being released by Nixon Carcelen, and, with just a minute to go to the break, a cross from Angel Fernandez crept in off Paraguay's Mario Ramirez.

Paraguay's Estanislao Struway was sent off for elbowing midfielder Alex Aquinaga in the face before Raul Aviles put the result beyond doubt in the 32nd minute.

There was even time for Carlos Munoz to miss a hotly-contested penalty four minutes from the end, Jose Chilavert diving left to save the weakly-taken spot kick.

## Kashima Antlers widen lead in J-League

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan League leaders Kashima Antlers made it three wins in a row Saturday when they staged a dramatic comeback against Gamba Osaka after being 0-2 down.

Brazilian imports Santos and Alcindo masterminded the second-half fightback that saw the Antlers run out eventual victors 4-2.

Osaka were leading 1-0 at half-time and added a second three

minutes after the restart to give them what appeared to be a comfortable cushion before the Brazilians got in the act.

The victory left Antlers, who downed Verdy Kawasaki 3-2 in mid-week, with 10 wins from 13 matches.

Elsewhere in the league, Marinos downed Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3-2 mid-week and outplayed JEF United Ichihara 3-1 Saturday. Marinos are now in second place

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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**

♠ J 7 3

♥ A 10 6 4

♦ K 8 2

♣ K 8 3

North's double was negative, i.e. for takeout. It was an effort to locate a possible 4-4 heart fit. When Tommy jumped in spades to show a limit raise with only three trumps—with four-card spade support North would have shown limit-raise values immediately.

West led the ace of clubs and continued the suit. Tommy shed a heart on dummy's king of clubs and, with the hand looking like a laydown, led a trump to the ace and returned a trump. East's heart discard on West's queen of spades brought a beam of delight to Tommy's eyes.

Declarer ruffed the club continuation, cashed the ace of hearts to fell the king, and then reeled off three rounds of diamonds. When West followed, all was well. Tommy simply continued leading diamonds. With the jack of trumps on the table poised behind West's K 9, the defender could score only the high trump and the game was secure.

**WEST**

♠ K 9 8

♥ K

♦ 7 6 3

♣ A Q J 10 5

**EAST**

♠ Q J 9 7 5 2

♥ 9 4

♦ 8 4

♣ A Q J 10 5

**SOUTH**

♠ A 10 6 5 2

♥ 8 3

♦ A Q J 10 5

♣ 9

The bidding:

North East West

Pass Pass 1 ♠

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Since all his friends were at the Summer North American Championships in Toronto, Trump Coup Tommy decided that it was time for his annual foray into the world of duplicate only an hour's plane ride away. Despite the fact that there were no testing hands in the Open Pairs qualifying rounds, Tommy

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## Moroccan opposition claims bigger victory

RABAT, Morocco (Agencies) — Despite their first parliamentary election victory, Morocco's long-persecuted opposition claimed Sunday that government cheating prevented them from a bigger score.

A four-party opposition coalition won 99 seats of 222 contested in Friday's legislative election, the first since 1984. Parties from the outgoing majority won 74, the rest went to smaller parties.

The results are unlikely to seriously challenge King Hassan's rule. The national assembly will remain weak, with the king retaining the power to dismiss it and the prime minister at will.

The score was not enough to give the opposition an outright majority. Another 111 seats remain to be chosen at a later date by local councils and professional bodies, mostly pro-king.

"The victory of the (opposition) union candidates was bigger than that announced by the official results," said an editorial in L'Opinion, organ of the nationalist Istiqlal Party.

Opposition's complaints were mirrored by those of the previous governing parties. One said that the results "were neither transparent nor democratic."

King Hassan, under pressure from Western backers to improve his human rights record, has pledged to introduce more democracy in his realm of 24 million subjects.

The new government will face the challenges of trying to narrow the widening gap between rich and poor, rooting out corruption, and moving ahead on the flagging U.N.-backed referendum on the Western Sahara.

Istiqlal and the leftist Socialist Union for Popular Forces, the two largest opposition parties, have been the victims of blatant fraud in Morocco's previous elections since independence in 1956.

The parties claimed ballot-stuffing and vote-buying this time round, but cheating appeared less overt than in previous elections.

Interior Minister Driss Bassri said they were characterised by "honesty, transparency and sincerity." The ministry said 65 per cent of the 11.5 million eligible voters cast ballots.

In a rarity in the Arab World, two women were elected to the national assembly, one each for Istiqlal and the Socialist Union. The two new assembly women,

both university professors, were among the 33 women on the list of 2,042 legislative candidates.

As the largest bloc, the opposition should be tapped to form a government. But that may depend on its ability to put together an alliance that would have a majority in parliament.

It will also hinge on who wins the remaining 111 assembly seats. A coalition representing the outgoing government won 74 seats. The balance of power could be held by an ethnic Berber party, centrists and independents who combined to win 47 seats. Some have said they could work with Istiqlal and the Socialist Union.

Istiqlal and the Socialist Forces issued a communique denouncing "pressures, notably from the authorities, that acted to the detriment of (our) candidates around the country."

Opposition officials claimed that voters were intimidated and ballot boxes stuffed. They promised to file complaints in court. A losing pro-government party also charged interference. But blatant fraud was less apparent than in previous elections.

Mr. Zaidi's claim prompted a demonstration Sunday morning by several hundred of his supporters, which witnesses reported was brutally broken up by police.

The clashes took place outside the house of Mr. Zaidi's parents, whom he was visiting, and left four demonstrators injured, including an old woman who was taken to hospital, neighbours said.

Mr. Zaidi earlier told AFP the result, which put Mr. Reghai first out of 11 candidates with almost 50 per cent of the vote, was "grotesque" and bore no relation to closing reports from polling stations after Friday's election.

"In 50 polling stations — out of a total of about 130 — I received more than 18,000 votes against two or three hundred for my RNI rival," Mr. Zaidi said.

"I think I should have won with about 80 per cent of the votes but the local authorities have robbed me of my victory," he added.

## Investigators lack proof to hold sheikh

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Investigators probing a plot to blow up public buildings and tunnels in New York City said Sunday they have tapes of the suspects' spiritual leader, but there was not enough evidence to arrest him.

Officials also said that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno has ordered that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman not be detained for fear of unrest among his supporters in this country and Egypt.

New York's Senator Alfonse D'Amato and state assemblyman Dov Hikind, both alleged targets for assassination by the eight suspects arrested Thursday have urged the White House and Justice Department to arrest the blind radical cleric.

"His status has been considered repeatedly, and the attorney general has directed that there not be any change in his status," Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern was reported as saying.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, has urged his followers in Egypt to stage a revolution to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

At a recent news conference, he also warned the United States that they would "bear the consequences" for supporting Mr. Mubarak.

His threat came a week before the arrest of the suspects charged in the latest case, many of whom are said to be his followers and close associates.

But Sheikh Abdul Rahman has repeatedly condemned the bombing of the World Trade Centre on Feb. 26 and the latest plot to blow up buildings and tunnels. He has also denied any involvement in

terrorist killings in Egypt. A law enforcement official said that Emad Salem, the confidential informant recorded many conversations between Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his followers but that the tapes fall short of what they need to make an arrest.

"They are simply not clear enough to understand what the sheikh is saying," said an investigator.

Mr. Salem was a confidant of Sheikh Abdul Rahman and often acted as his translator.

The strategy to allow Sheikh Abdul Rahman to remain free is to allow investigators to keep tabs on the cleric's followers, said the official.

"If we arrest him, it could also set off wild demonstrators both in this country and Egypt," he added.

**Sudan distances itself**  
A senior Sudanese official Sunday attempted to distance his country from the men arrested in New York on charges they were planning to blow up the United Nations and U.S. government buildings.

Five Sudanese were among eight alleged extremists arrested Thursday. There also were reports that two diplomats with Sudan's mission to the United Nations were under investigation.

Omer Baridou, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, was quoted by the daily Al Ingaz Al Watani as saying the five Sudanese nationals "have no official link with the Sudan" and that they now carry U.S. papers.

U.S. sees Sudan as breeding ground, page 2

## Regent pays tribute to Armed Forces

(Continued from page 1)  
bility in working and accomplishing our mission and in safeguarding our achievements and in providing a free and decent life to all Arabs in this Kingdom who live in an atmosphere of affection and harmony," the Regent said.

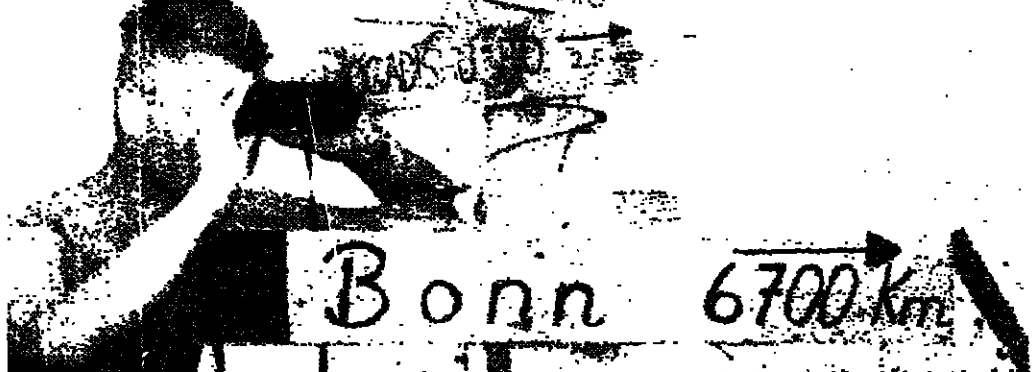
"We view the human being in terms of his sacrifices, and his achievements and creative work without any discrimination based on origin," he added.

Jordan, the Regent stressed, "is the land of all Arabs who believe in the unity of the Arab Nation and who seek to make this country a model to be followed by other Arab and Islamic na-

tions." He said the Armed Forces had been also helping health and education services and eradicate illiteracy through its educational institutions.

Nothing with satisfaction coordination between the military education centres and Muta University's military wing, the Regent said that the two sides had been sharing laboratories, workshops and other facilities.

Furthermore, he said, the Armed Forces have contributed towards building sand dams to help expand agricultural lands and have been contributing to the construction sector in Jordan.



An unidentified German soldier surveys the military airport in Mogadishu next to a signpost indicating the approximate direction and distance of several European cities, as well as that of the local post office. United Nations forces in Somalia are taking seriously threats by fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided to kill U.S. soldiers and civilians (AFP photo)

## Iraq says 8 killed in missile strike

(Continued from page 1)

two covered bodies being removed from the rubble. "I also saw several others bleeding and being rushed to ambulances," he said.

Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, said in New York that some of the missiles struck government buildings, but that others landed in residential neighbourhoods, killing and wounding civilians.

"There were numerous civilian casualties," Mr. Hamdoun said, but did not say how many. "We're still counting the wounded and dead."

Mr. Hamdoun denied Iraqi involvement in any assassination attempt, and said Washington did not contact Iraq's government to discuss the information provided by the men arrested in Kuwait.

"The attack was completely unwarranted and unjustified," the Iraqi ambassador said.

Mr. Hamdoun said Iraq was considering filing a protest with the U.N. Security Council.

About 10,000 angry Iraqis marched in a funeral procession for six of the civilians killed in the U.S. attack.

Marchers took turns carrying the coffins of the six victims of the pre-dawn attack, as they walked for more than two kilometres through Baghdad's streets, an AFP correspondent said.

President Saddam meanwhile chaired a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the ruling Baath Party to discuss the attack, state-run Iraq News Agency (INA) said.

Participants "examined the after-effects of the criminal and terrorist aggression perpetrated by the Americans against civilians and their homes as well as urgent measures to care for the wounded," INA said.

The government has denounced the surprise attack as "cowardly and argued it was totally unjustified."

The United States described the raid as successful.

In a formal explanation of why the missiles were fired at Baghdad, Washington told the Security Council there was no reasonable prospect that new diplomatic initiatives on economic measures could influence Iraq to stop attacks on the United States.

A U.S. letter to Security Council President Juan Antonio Yanez-Barneuve of Spain, said Washington had therefore decided, as a last resort, that it had to respond to an attempted attack against Mr. Bush, and the threat of further attacks, by striking at an Iraqi military and intelligence target involved in such attacks.

American U.N. Representative Madeleine Albright also called for an urgent council meeting, set for 2000 GMT Sunday.

President Clinton, in announcing the U.S. raid, said the council meeting was being requested "to

expose Iraq's crime." Ms. Albright, in her letter, said the United States had exercised its right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the U.N. charter, in response to Iraq's "unlawful attempt to murder the former chief executive of the United States government, President George Bush, and to its continuing threat to United States nationals."

She said the Iraqi government bore direct responsibility for the "failed attempt at assassinating" Mr. Bush for actions he took while he was president.

It reached this conclusion "based on clear and compelling evidence of the government of Iraq's actions in the attempted murder."

Ms. Albright gave no further details, but the United States has said Mr. Bush was targeted during a visit last April to Kuwait, where he was hailed for leading the coalition which liberated the emirate from Iraqi occupation in early 1991.

Mr. Clinton pronounced the missile strike a success, but said Sunday he regretted civilians were killed.

"I feel quite good about what transpired," Mr. Clinton said on his way to church. "I think the American people should feel good."

Asked about civilian casualties, he said, "I'm sorry that happened, but I think we had minimal loss of life."

Defence Secretary Les Aspin told Cable News Network that damage to the main target was "very extensive" but declined to comment on whether further action was possible.

"We hit the target we intended to hit," Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a separate CNN interview.

Gen. Powell said at least three of the 23 missiles missed their targets and that some civilians were killed and injured.

Gen. Powell said the United States was moving the aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt into the region, but added he did not know if Iraq retaliated.

The Pentagon said Iraq had made "defensive" redeployments of troops and air defence units since the attack.

"It (the dispersal) took place within hours of the time over target and has continued on for a few hours... it was defensive in nature," the Pentagon's director of intelligence, Rear Admiral Mike Cramer, told reporters.

Gen. Powell said the cruise missiles were launched from the USS Peterson and USS Chancellorsville in the Red Sea and the Gulf, respectively.

Mr. Clinton called Mr. Bush just minutes after the attack was launched, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher had briefed Mr. Bush earlier Saturday, a senior administration official said.

## Allies back U.S. action; Arabs decry it

(Continued from page 1)

said: "One has to bear in mind what happened prior to that. There was a deliberate and pre-meditated attempt to assassinate the former president of the United States."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the U.S. attack was a justified response to the alleged plot to assassinate Mr. Bush.

Malaysia slammed the attack as deeply regrettable, unjustifiable and liable to worsen crisis in the Middle East.

"No peace loving country could condone such an action," Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted by the national Bernama news agency as saying.

Kuwait Sunday expressed support for the U.S. missile strike on Baghdad, saying it was the consequence of what it called persistent Iraqi terrorism.

The cabinet called on the international community to keep pressure on Iraq to abide by resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

"Kuwait said the attack by a sovereign nation and I resume it took all the considerations for

what it did. I think what it did was the right thing," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Saleh, on a visit to Cairo, said of the U.S. attack: "This use of terrorism should not prevail in the civilised world, whether by persons or states."

"When unarmed civilians' lives are destroyed, we have to look at whatever happened carefully. I think that the strike against Iraq is wrong whatever the reasons," he said.

Iran said the attack was unjustifiable.

Parliament's foreign relations committee, in a statement broadcast by Tehran Radio, said the strike was "an open international act of aggression which cannot be justified on the basis of any of the international treaties and agreements."

The committee expressed its disappointment at what it called the bullying attitude of the United States, and said the attack was a threat to international peace and security.

"How can any government permit itself to threaten, put on trial, and above all punish like a bully another government," the statement said.

## 2 Americans, Pakistani wounded in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali gunmen shot and wounded two American soldiers Sunday. About an hour later, a Pakistani soldier was wounded, military officials said.

A U.N. spokesman said the U.S. soldiers were fired on about 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) while clearing debris from 21 October Road, a wide avenue lined with abandoned factories and buildings where snipers are common.

Doctors at the U.S. military hospital refused to give the soldiers' conditions, but a spokesman said the wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

A Pakistani soldier was shot and wounded along the same road, said the spokesman.

The attacks followed Friday's bombardment of a U.S.-government owned ship unloading jet fuel at Mogadishu's port. Attackers fired four rocket-propelled grenades across the water at the SS American Odyssey, tearing a hole in a cargo hold and sending a stream of fuel pouring into the sea for about a half-hour. No one was injured.

21 October Road is named for the anniversary of the coup that brought former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre to power. More recently, it has become known as a deadly alley for foreign troops,

particularly the Pakistanis whose headquarters are at the stadium on the street.

Several buildings were used as bases for the June 5 ambushes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, the military says. When U.N. forces began a series of shelling raids to destroy fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided's military might, it targeted several sites along the road.

It has been a tense area since the June 5 attack. Local residents have thrown up roadblocks from burned cars and shops to stop U.N. patrols.

Sunday's attack followed the distribution of pamphlets by shadowy groups and pro-Aided factions warning that foreigners would be targeted in reprisal for the crackdown.

A U.N. spokesman in Mogadishu said Saturday that U.N. forces there were taking seriously threats by Aided supporters of to begin killing U.S. soldiers and civilians.

Aided supporters warned in a leaflet that unless U.N. peacekeepers called off the hunt for their leader they would kill "1,500 soldiers or civilians from America inside or outside the country in a way of martyrdom never experienced in the world."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Guerrillas kill two Israeli allies

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas said on Sunday they assassinated two militia collaborators with Israel in its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. But security sources in the zone said the men, killed in shootings late on Saturday and Sunday, were both civilians. The Islamic Resistance, a guerrilla coalition dominated by the Hizbollah (Party of God) movement, said its fighters assassinated Hassan Nasser, 37, late Saturday in Deir Siriane village and Mohammad Fakih in the village of Teireh on Sunday. The Islamic Resistance said both men were killed for working for Israel.

### Senior British official to see prisoners in Iraq

AMMAN (R) — Britain sent a senior official to Iraq Sunday to visit three Britons jailed for illegally entering the country, but diplomats dampened hopes the visit would lead to their release. Stephen Howarth, head of the Foreign Office's consular department in London, left for Baghdad on the long-planned trip Sunday morning, just hours after Washington fired missiles at Iraq's intelligence centre. He was joined by Mark Legoy, an Arabic-speaking political officer from the British Embassy in Amman.

### Israeli minister threatens Iran arms dealers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister issued veiled death threats during a cabinet meeting Sunday against anyone selling non-conventional weapons to Iran, Israeli radio reported. "Israel must let those who help the Iranians arm themselves with non-conventional weapons know that they are risking their lives," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid reportedly said at the weekly session.

### Christians open dial-a-prayer hotline

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Christians launched a hotline to the Holy Land here Sunday to enable followers around the world to dial a prayer in Jerusalem. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan joined an array of politicians, ambassadors and church leaders through a video-taped message to the inauguration at a Jerusalem hotel overlooking the Mount of Olives. Mr. Reagan said from Los Angeles: "Prayer really does work." He urged the gathering to say a prayer for world peace. Israel's telecommunications company Bezeq, in cooperation with the Jerusalem Bible Institute, has opened 50 lines on which Christians can call volunteers from churches in the city to pray.

### Israeli helicopters blast Hizbollah house

NABATIYEH (AP) — Two Israeli helicopter gunships blasted a house used by guerrillas in South Lebanon Sunday. Police said there were no casualties. They said the Cobras demolished the one-storey house in the pine woods surrounding the village of Zawar Al Gharbiyah with five wire-guided missiles at 6:15 p.m. (1515 GMT). The house belonged to Hissen Ali Ibrahim, a woman affiliated with Hizbollah, said police officials in the nearby market town of Nabatiyeh. Reporters in Nabatiyeh said they saw the two helicopters as they unleashed the missiles. Smoke billowed from Zawar Al Gharbiyah afterward. The village is just outside the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

### Iran shells villages in northern Iraq

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq (AFP) — Iran has been shelling villages in northern Iraq for the past three weeks, forcing dozens of Iranian Kurds to flee the region, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday. The head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told AFP that 80 Iranian Kurdish families have fled border villages in the wake of the shelling and that the UNHCR was providing them with assistance. A spokesman for the opposition Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan said two people were killed and around 20 wounded in shelling which targeted the border villages of Kalsan, Bole and Shiwaaz, Iraqi Kurdish officials, who elected a parliament in northern Iraq last year in defiance of Baghdad, confirmed the toll.

### Qadhafi sends urgent message to Yeltsin

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Colonel Muammar Qadhafi Sunday sent an urgent message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin after officials here denied that a shipment of fuel for missiles destined for Libya was intercepted in the Ukraine. The Libyan leader handed the message to the Russian ambassador in Libya, state radio said but provided no details on its contents. On Saturday a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied recent press reports that a boat loaded with 80 tonnes of Russian fuel for missiles destined for Libya had been intercepted in the Ukraine. Libya has been slapped with an international air and military embargo since April 1992 over its failure to hand over two suspects indicted for the 1988 bombing of a U.S. plane over Lockerbie, Scotland (see page 2).

### Majority of U.S. citizens favour cut in immigration

NEW YORK (AFP) — A majority of Americans favour reducing immigration mainly because of hard economic times, said a New York Times-CBS poll published Sunday. The poll said 61 per cent of U.S. citizens are for a reduction in immigration, compared to 49 per cent in a similar poll in 1986. Americans are more receptive to immigration in prosperous times, said the Times. In 1965 when the unemployment rate was only four per cent, 33 per cent of those polled wanted a reduction in immigration. Unemployment is currently around seven per cent. In last week's poll of 1,363 people, only 32 per cent said the United States should let in more immigrants. Half of the people polled said immigrants "cause problems," while 45 per cent said they work harder than people born in the United States.

## COLUMN

### Principal leaves unruly students at highway plaza

MIAMI (AP) — A high school principal kicked three students off a bus during a field trip, leaving them at a turnpike plaza because he said they failed to finish a writing assignment. The parents of the youths are furious. And a Dade County school administrator is looking into their complaints. Principal Marvin Dunn, also a psychologist, said he handled the situation properly.

"They were refusing to participate," he said. "We have a very clear rule about defiance." Mr. Dunn is the principal of a high school for 140 students in danger of dropping out. At the school year's end, about 40 students are rewarded with a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. The incident happened on June 19 on the way home after spending all night on the bus driving the 800 miles (1,300 kilometres) back south.

The students were supposed to be writing evaluations of the trip: What was fun, what was boring. Mr. Dunn warned the group that anyone who failed to finish would be kicked off the bus at the Pompano Beach Turnpike Plaza, about an hour's drive north of Miami. Three of them didn't finish. Their reason: They were half-asleep and didn't get pens and paper in time to finish. The students should have been disciplined in Miami, not left behind, their parents said.

**Fire breaks out at singer's villa**  
MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Jazz singer Nina Simone suffered superficial cuts from broken glass in escaping an early morning fire at her vacation home north of Marseille. The fire apparently was caused by an overheated fax machine and destroyed her ground-floor study, said authorities. Ms. Simone was awakened by a servant and suffered superficial cuts as she escaped through a bedroom window. She described herself as "in shock" from the blaze. It appeared likely that she would not participate at a jazz festival in Paris at the beginning of July, she said.

**Pavarotti sings for half a million**  
NEW YORK (AP) — Half a million people gathered to hear Luciano Pavarotti sing in Central Park for what one fan dubbed "an Italian Woodstock." The concert, which had more Italian songs than Italian operatic arias, also was televised live by PBS, which used breaks in it for fund raising. Musicians were from the New York Philharmonic. The 57-year-old Italian tenor finished his performance with an encore of Nessun Dorma from Turandot. "Beautiful people, in the name of all of us on the stage and in the name of all the organisers, we thank you very much for this incredible night you are giving to us," Pavarotti told the crowd before he left the stage. The City Parks Department said about 500,000 people attended the concert. The sound system did not do justice to Pavarotti's voice, but as the evening wore on, his singing sounded more relaxed and his beauty prevailed. Dennis Bess, a young actor who moved to Manhattan from the University of Oklahoma, was delighted by the event. "It's amazing the attitude of New Yorkers," he said. "When a big event comes along, they're friendly with one another. I've never been to an extravaganza like this. It's a Woodstock, an Italian Woodstock."

**Donor heart is transplanted — twice**  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A heart was transplanted a second time after the first recipient died, a rare case of organ recycling that highlights the critical shortage of donors, doctors said. John Ferrandino, a longshoreman suffering from a weakening of his heart known as dilated cardiomyopathy, received the organ on June 20 after the first recipient died of a brain hemorrhage. "One heart, it's fantastic," Ferrandino's wife, Pearl, said while visiting her husband. Medical experts said they know of only one other case of a heart transplanted twice. Mr. Ferrandino received the heart at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Centre, said Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, a cardiologist who treated both Mr. Ferrandino and the previous recipient, who died 11 days after getting the heart from a woman who had died in an automobile accident. Mr. Ferrandino, 42, a father of two, was expected to remain in intensive care for several days. "I feel a lot better," he said. "I'm really lucky." In 1991, doctors in Switzerland removed the heart of a 47-year-old transplant recipient after he died of a stroke and stitched it into a 58-year-old man.